



שבת שולחן ניצוצות

Shabbat Table Sparks

Igniting Torah Learning at the Sabbath Table

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Insights & Questions From the Parashah

“There is no difference between Shiloh and Jerusalem except that in Shiloh sacrifices of lesser sanctity and second tithe could be eaten anywhere within sight [of the town], whereas in Jerusalem [they had to be eaten] within the walls. In both places the most holy sacrifices were eaten within the curtains. After the sanctification of Shiloh there is permission [for altars], but after the sanctification of Jerusalem there is no such permission.” **Mishnah Megillah 1**

Parashah Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18

א Many Kabbalistic works refer to the angel Mem-Tet by another name, “Na’ar” meaning “Youth.” The Talmud writes that the “Officer of the World” said the verse, “I was a Youth, and also have aged, yet I have not seen a righteous man stranded, [or] his offspring request bread.”...he is called Youth because “Na’ar” is his proper name; “Na’ar” is seen as the name of an angel in Zechariah 2:7. The Midrash says that when Batyah ascended to the river to bathe and beheld a “lad crying” this “lad”, Na’ar, refers to the angel who accompanied the baby Moses on the Nile River. One can reason that this angel who is referred to as a “lad” is indeed Mem-Tet. Interestingly, Josephus writes that Mem-Tet has seventy names...” (R” Chaim HaQoton) **Selah**

ב *He shall serve for six years, and in the seventh he shall go free...Ex. 21:2*
“Allegorically, the six years allude to the six millennia between the creation of the world and the messianic era. During the first six millennia, we must struggle with the imperfections of the world and work to improve and perfect it. But in the seventh millennia, “he shall go free,” for there will no longer be any need for work.” (Torah Or, Mishpatim 76a) **What was man’s “work” in the garden and what do you think that portends for us in the Millennial reign?**

ג *One who curses his father or mother...Ex. 21:17* A Jew is not held accountable to Jewish Law until he reaches the age of 13. Even then, he is not accountable to capital punishment until he reaches the age of 20. This is what we learn in the Talmud (Sanhedrin) **With this in mind, why is the study of the Oral Law so important?**

Psalm of The Parashah

Psalm 72

O G-d, help the king to judge as you would, and help his son to walk in Godliness. Help him to give justice to your people, even to the poor. May the mountains and hills flourish in prosperity because of his good reign. Help him to defend the poor and needy and to crush their oppressors. May the poor and needy revere you constantly, as long as sun and moon continue in the skies! Yes, forever! May the reign of this son of mine be as gentle and fruitful as the springtime rains upon the grass-like showers that water the earth! May all good men flourish in his reign with abundance of peace to the end of time. Let him reign from sea to sea and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. The desert nomads shall bow before him; his enemies shall fall face downward in the dust. Kings along the Mediterranean coast-the kings of Tarshish and the islands-and those from Sheba and from Seba-all will bring their gifts. Yes, kings from everywhere! All will bow before him! All will serve him! He will take care of the helpless and poor when they cry to him; for they have no one else to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and needy and will rescue them. He will save them from oppression and from violence, for their lives are precious to him. And he shall live; and to him will be given the gold of Sheba, and there will be constant praise for him. His people will bless him all day long. Bless us with abundant crops throughout the land, even on the highland plains; may there be fruit like that of Lebanon; may the cities be as full of people as the fields are of grass. His name will be honored forever; it will continue as the sun; and all will be blessed in him; all nations will praise him. Blessed be HaShem G-d, the G-d of Israel, who only does wonderful things! Blessed be his glorious Name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen!



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T *The one who kindled the fire shall make restitution...Ex. 22:5* Rabbi Munk comments to this verse, “Although the fire spread independently of the owner’s will, he is nevertheless required to make restitution since he is responsible to contain and control it. Similarly, R’ Yotzchak explains allegorically that HaShem has taken the responsibility to rebuild the Holy Temple, for He caused the fire to go out of Zion with destroyed it (Bava Kamma 60b).” From here we see support for the Jewish view that the Third and final Temple will be “built” by the Messiah; it will literally descend from Heaven. **Do you think that the average believer is aware that the Tabernacle / Temple on earth was but a mere copy of the one that exists in Heaven?**

T *You shall follow a majority...Ex. 23:2* The Kehot Chumash has an interesting insight to this verse, “Peace, or unanimity, implies the existence of initially conflicting opinions that are subsequently reconciled. This idea is expressed in the traditional Jewish greeting, "Shalom aleichem (peace unto you)." Even though the word aleichem ("unto you") is in the plural, we use this same expression even when greeting an individual. For when two people meet there is polarity, the possibility of conflict, since every person thinks and feels differently. In this context, Shalom aleichem means "let peace infuse our plurality." The traditional response, "Aleichem shalom," goes one step further: In the expression Shalom aleichem, peace precedes polarity, implying a peace imposed upon the two parties. In contrast, Aleichem shalom connotes a peace that emerges from the differences.” **How much does HaShem value peace among brothers?**



A Mikvah Moment

“Many women seek out the mikvah because it makes them feel special and connects them to the matriarchs. Sarah did the mikvah; in fact, she had a separate tent for the times when she and Abraham had to be apart. Miriam's well is purported to be a mikvah. In more recent times, when mikvah's were outlawed in Russia, and the KGB closed them down, the women would courageously go somewhere else and open new ones. The mikvah is so important in Judaism that if a congregation has money for either a Torah scroll or a mikvah, they are supposed to build the mikvah first.” **Confessions of a Mikvah Goer**

An Inspirational Story

The Growing Tree

Rabbi Uri taught: “Man is like a tree. If you stand in front of a tree and watch it incessantly to see how it grows and to see how much it has grown, you will see nothing at all. But tend to it at all times, prune the runners, and keep the vermin from it, and - all in good time - it will come into its growth. It is he same with man: all that is necessary is for him to overcome his obstacles, and he will thrive and grow. But it is not right to examine him every hour to see how much has been added to his growth.”

Testimony of the Talmid

The rabbi of Kalev once asked Rabbi Yehudah Zevi to tell him words of the teachings which he had heard from his teacher, Rabbi Uri. “The teachings of my teacher,” said Rabbi Yehudah Zevi, “are like manna that enters the body but does not leave it.” But when the rabbi of Kalev would not stop pressing him, Rabbi Yehudah Zevi tore open the coat over his breast and cried: “Look into my heart! There you will learn what my teacher is.”

*Yeshua said to them, “I am the bread of life.
Yochanan 6:35*

A Spark Of Mussar

“Judge *everyone*
Favorably. Even one’s
enemies.”

~ Kav HaYashar 43:4