

Mishpatim **Judgments** **Unconditional Conditions**

Torah: Exodus 21:1-24:16

21:22-25: The punishment must fit the crime and be a deterrent against crime. There is no other valid way to understand this passage – fetal life has the same full rights as post-natal life. Ending life in the womb is the same as ending life out of the womb.

22:9: bring it to G-d – do not impose your own flawed justice on the situation.

[18, 19, 20] abominations must be removed.

23:29, 30 - bit by bit until we are strong enough to take full possession of the land.

[31 the Holy Land had the same limits as the Garden of Eden]

24:3. We are to do that YHVH has said. It is not a pick and choose buffet.

[21:1-23:33 is the book of the covenant - why did Moses not sprinkle it with blood? It did not have to be dedicated, it was the book which contained all the conditions people agreed with in order to be dedicated]

[24:11 second ritual meal – first was with Jethro, Moses' father in law]

[24:12 putting the ten words in writing]

Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-32; 33:25, 26

The people were backsliding about Hebrew sanctioned servitude and their need to release people from it after the six year limit. After the people were delivered from the Babylonians, they repent and then they re-offend.

[32:19 horror, they have eunuchs]

43:17 they will be chastened with the sword, pestilence and famine – if you act like Egyptians, you get treated like them.

34:8 You cannot put the parts of a butchered calf back together – if you try, you will be butchered.

[33:25, 26] chastisement never erases His promises]

Brit Chadashah: Matthew 17:1-11

17:1,2 the Law (Moses) the prophets (Elijah testify to Messiah. John the Baptist came in the mandate of Elijah and they did not listen to the testimony of Moses and Elijah. Do You?

Sermon: The One Thousand Generation dash - don't drop the baton

Hebrews 12:1-3

We therefore also, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us reject every weight (burden) and the sin which does so easily ensnare us and let us run with perseverance the race which is opened up to us, keeping our gaze fixed upon Yeshua, who raises up faith within us and causes it to reach perfection; who in exchange for the joy which was reserved for Him, suffered the cross, despising the shame, is now seated on the right of the throne of G-d. Consider the One who endured such opposition (hostility) against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Chapter eleven is the spiritual hero's hall of fame- not exhaustive, but generational - baton passers in the generational (cosmic) relay race and the baton we are called to pass on without dropping it is faith and obedience – how is your grip?

Today, I want to deal with FIVE main ideas and ask you FIVE basic questions – all based on the central concept of our generational membership in the body of our Messiah – our heavenly mishpocah – the victorious team members waiting on the other side of the finish line – spiritual hall of famers waiting for our name to be added to the celestial wall (the heavenly Jerusalem). It is not a race to earn salvation; it is contest to acquire a crown.

Five Main Ideas: generational membership means:

1. All mankind descends from Adam and Eve (our sacred DNA) and just so that we do not get cocky – we also descend from Noah through his sons. There is not master race or genetic elite, endowed with special insights or abilities – whenever we live and wherever we find ourselves, we are all set the same relay race and we all receive the same baton: faith (in our Messiah) and obedience (to His Word), to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

Jews are the chosen people who generationally testify to our generational need to choose and obey. We Jews are not spiritual elite from which all other nations are excluded and who are somehow considered inferior – we are caretakers of the divine blueprint for the ages. We need to be a people who are choosing to believe and to obey as we spend a lifetime applying both our faith and our obedience to every area of our lives at every stage of our lives, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, running the generational relay as we learn to grip the baton (faith and obedience) and never let it go.

All those who have crossed the finish line call back to us not to quit, but to get up when we stumble and also make it across the finish line (with the baton still in our grasp).

2. From all nations and generations.

Controversy! The righteous core is found in all generations and nations of mankind. The truth of the Gospel through the Torah stands as a beacon and a doorway (portal) which can only be entered through faith and obedience.

Some may languish in pagan darkness without losing their passion for the light - it is this passion (this proto-faith) which carries them through the portal. All grass roots (ersatz) religions have the same basic themes (presuppositions):

1. A creation.
2. A fall.
3. Redemption.
4. Life after death.
5. An end of the world.
6. A spiritual duty based on the first five.

Yeshua is the only way to the Father and faith and obedience is the only way to access Yeshua. Our outreach is a persistent quest to recruit light seekers (baton relay runners) who want to abandon darkness and learn to run through it and not crouch and cower in it.

All are called, though who choose are the chosen.

It does not matter where you've come from or where you've been or done, it matters which direction you are headed in as you free your heart and life from darkness and fill it with the light of the generational baton relay, which is faith in the truth of the Torah Gospel and obedience (applying it to every corner of our lives) - pushing, puffing and even sometimes stumbling across the finish line of our section of the relay race.

3. We are connected to the invisible cloud of witnesses in two ways: first through their testimony (faith legacy) and second through our own faith and obedience – by our own participation in the same race – there is no reincarnation, just an enduring testimony which has sometimes been overwhelming and sometimes barely audible.

Is your testimony overwhelming or barely audible?

4. The sleeping witnesses (generational amphitheatre). They are witnesses, not judges and their testimony is sometimes for the prosecution and sometimes for the defence, depending on the evidence which our handling of the generational baton relay brings with it.

They are neither conscious nor active. How aware are they? Deut. 29:29. We can neither talk to them (except by special divine permission) and they cannot talk to us or help us or even hinder us in anyway. Their testimony is the only involvement they have with us.

5. The Heavenly Jerusalem is under construction generationally; when the final brick is laid (when the final baton crosses the finish line), the end will come. Their neighbourhood is finished while ours is under construction. What are you building, NOT just into your life, but also into the life which is to come?

There are only two structures which are being built generationally in our world: the tower of Babel (of spiritual confusion) and the heavenly Jerusalem (of spiritual truth). Which real estate are you investing in? Which baton are you carrying?

All of this will be sorted out at the final judgment - what are you sorting out as you prepare to

cross your finish line and as you wait to see the beautiful city take shape? Will you be a "by the skin of my teeth" pebble or a "totally focused" pillar?

FIVE basic questions: One thousand in the Bible refers to the generations, now I want to ask you how you are doing in your generation.

1. How well (how thoroughly) does your testimony (your part of the relay race) connect with them? And how firm a grip do you have of the faith/obedience baton which was passed to you? How well are you running?
2. What spiritual legacy will you leave behind?
3. Membership in a local congregation is a symbolic connection to an actual reality. We are a community of committed relay racers with a firm grip of the faith and obedience baton. Join our team as we train on a daily, weekly, monthly and annual schedule. Let us grip the baton together and keep a steady, harmonious pace together.
4. There are three basic challenges in the way G-d is training baton carrying relay racers on His team for the one thousand generation dash! These are by burdens, by a battle with sin and by chastisement.

Burdens are challenges which appear to be valid and compelling, but which either want to slow us down (stall us) or distract us (detour us). They interfere with our relay racing, baton gripping effectiveness. Which burdens are you facing and how well are you handling them? How well are you rejecting them?

Sin is the false race, the disqualifying (penalty) behaviour. There are rules we have to abide by if we do not want to spend our lives in the penalty box or end up being disqualified when we cross the finish line. How are you resolving (resisting) potential and accidental penalties and disqualifications in your personal race?

Chastisements - (reaping what we sow and learning to plant better). Sometimes the L-rd realizes that we may only be able to learn the hard way. In whatever "hard way" you encounter, are you using it to learn to grip tighter and run better?

Do you know the difference between these three in your life?

5. Every life situation and every individual is unique, but our bond with the invisible cloud of witnesses is standard: FAITH in the resurrected Messiah of promise and OBEDIENCE to His Word of truth. How are you balancing your uniqueness to His standard?

We are part of a generational relay race of one thousand generations with only one finish line for each generation. Join our community as we strengthen our grip of the baton and learn to run effectively and with perseverance as we keep passing the baton to our children and to the other runners who join our team and who learn to race with us. We are in a thousand generation dash. Let's not become stalled or tripped up or distracted or disqualified.

This is what effective membership is all about!