

Shabbat Shoftim

שבת שופטים

September 3rd, 2022 / 7 Elul 5782

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Annual Torah Reading:	Deuteronomy	16:18-21:9	page 1088
Triennial Torah Reading	Deuteronomy	19:14-21	page 1099
Haftarah Reading:	Isaiah	51:12-52:12	page 1108

Weekly Torah Reading – Shoftim (Judges)

Pshat – The Story at a glance

1. Israel must establish for itself a system of just courts throughout the land that are not tainted by bribes, favoritism, or corruption. The famous instruction of “*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*—Justice, justice shall you pursue”, appears in this context (page 1088).
2. Israel is permitted to establish a king for itself if he meets certain conditions, so as to recall that G-d is the ultimate King of Israel.
3. The Priests are due certain gifts that the Israelites bring as part of their sacrifices, including animals’ foreleg, jaw, and stomach.
4. When Israel wages war in the future, it shall first make overtures of peace and spare the fruit trees.
5. In a case of unsolved murder, a heifer is slaughtered in a ritual that publicizes the matter and seeks forgiveness for neglect.

Drash – A Closer Look

“**Justice, justice** shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that your God is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 16:20).

Ibn Ezra (12 century commentator): Why is the word “justice” repeated? According to Ibn Ezra, there are three possible explanations for this repetition:

1. A person should pursue justice regardless of whether they gain or lose.
2. To indicate that one should pursue justice throughout the whole course of their lives.
3. Or the simplest possible answer: for emphasis.

Some further thought: There is a common line of thinking that tells us that every word in the Torah is significant. It is for that reason that readers are especially attuned to question the appearance of words that may appear superfluous or repetitive at first glance. There are many explanations among the commentators for why the word “Tzedek” is repeated in this famous phrase, and Ibn Ezra presenting three different possibilities is a small indicator of how many different interpretations have been suggested for this seemingly confusing phrasing.

Shabbat Shalom

שבת שלום

SERVICE TIMES:

Friday Eve 6:15pm, **Shabbat Morning** 9am

Sunday & Monday (Labor Day) 9am, **Tues - Thurs** 7 pm, **Wed** 7:30am

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Gabe Cohen and Rabbi Jeremy Rubberg for leading services. Rabbi Gabe Cohen and Rabbi Jeremy Rubberg for reading Torah and Stan Yellin for chanting the Haftorah.

Sponsors

Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring the bima baskets and their donation to the Closter Food Pantry.

Announcements:

Fantasy Football League 2022 Tuesday, September 6th at 7:30 PM Adult League - \$150 College Students & Kids League - \$36
Price Includes: Waivers & Unlimited Trades [**RSVP HERE**](#) by Sunday, September 4th!

Friday, September 9th at 5:15 PM Welcome Back BBQ! Please join us for our Welcome Back BBQ! Tickets Include: Food & Fun for the whole family, interactions with clergy, and activities for all ages! Don't miss the opportunity to connect with new members of the congregation and to re-connect with old friends! \$18 per adult (ages 11 and up); \$10 per child (ages 10 and under) [**RSVP HERE**](#)

High Holy Days 5783 Ticket Request Information and Membership Renewal can be completed online by [**CLICKING HERE**](#). If you have any questions about your account, please contact the Main Office at 201-750-9997.

High Holy Day Drawing Contest This year we are conducting a High Holy Day drawing contest. Please submit your original artwork, on or before Monday, September 12th which captures the following idea: What does home mean to you? The drawings will be displayed during our High Holy Day Services. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card. For more information and to submit your completed artwork please [**CLICK HERE**](#).

Minyan: Daily Minyan is the backbone of our Temple community. 365 days a year our synagogue offers a service so those who are saying Kaddish to memorialize a loved one or those who seek spiritual nourishment have an outlet and an address. WE WILL STILL OFFER ZOOM services and those in attendance virtually, can participate and say the Kaddish prayer. However, the circumstances necessitating the elasticity of counting two forums to make a Minyan no longer are in effect.

Here is a [Google Sheet](#) assignment calendar. We want to launch with success and ensure we have in-person coverage for the first three months of this re-engagement. Please consider joining us in person, one day a month so that those who require and want the services of our Minyan can be assured we have the proper amount of people present. Minyan takes about 10-15 minutes. Services are at 7:00 PM Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM on Shabbat and Sunday, and 7:30 AM on Wednesday.

Please visit the Temple Emanu-El website for more information and to join us virtually: [**https://templeemanu-el.com**](https://templeemanu-el.com)