



# Temple Emanu-El

## Shabbat Shoftim

פֶּרֶשַׁת שׁוֹפְטִים

August 30, 2025 / 6 Elul 5785

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

### Weekly Torah Reading – Shoftim

#### 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.
2. Israel is permitted to establish a king for itself if he meets certain conditions, including that he must be chosen by God and follow the instruction of the Torah.
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 all the fruit trees in the land.
5. In a case of unsolved murder, a heifer is slaughtered in a ritual that publicizes the matter and seeks forgiveness for neglect (Deuteronomy 21).

#### Drash – A Closer Look at this Week’s Parsha

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

Why is the word “justice” repeated? According to the 12<sup>th</sup> century 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: just 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 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 confusing phrasing.

## Shabbat Shalom שבת שלום

**This Week’s Service Times: \*\*\*Please note change for Labor Day on Monday 9/1\*\*\***

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

**Sunday and \*Monday\* Mornings 9am,**

**Tuesday—Thursday Evenings 7pm,**

**Wednesday Morning 7:30am**

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Gabe Cohen, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, and Cantor Israel Singer for leading services. Jake Becker, Michael Goodman and Rabbi Gabe Cohen for reading Torah and Stan Yellin for chanting the Haftorah.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to Roberto Cymrot for delivering this week's sermon.

Thank you to Dr. Rica Rabinowitz and Steve Leeman for serving as our Gabbaim.

### **Sponsors**

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

Thank you to Drs' Esther Diamant & Richard Garden for sponsoring the kiddush in memory of Herman Diamant z"l, Anni Diamant, Samuel Zenek Garden z"l and Tanya Garden z"l.

### **Announcements**

**Just One More Thing.** JOMT is designed to address and combat food insufficiency right here in our community. We will be partnering with the Closter Food Pantry, targeting items month by month that are most in need. We are asking our congregation to purchase "just one more thing" when shopping at the supermarket. *Drop-off location: Temple Office.*

**September Item: Pasta Sauce**

**High Holy Days Ticket Requests | Now past due!** Tickets are not sent automatically. You must complete the High Holy Days 5786 form in order to receive tickets. In order to process your ticket request, full payment and/or financial arrangements\* for Membership Dues, additional High Holy Days tickets and Religious School Registration must be received by August 8th. Submit your ticket request today, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Men's Club Presents: Fantasy Football League 2025 Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 PM.** Whether you're a seasoned pro or just getting started, our Fantasy Football League is open to all: adults, college students, and kids. Draft will be held virtually on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Enjoy a season of excitement, strategy, and friendly competition. Kids League, no cost | Adults League \$180 (all in, no transaction fees). Register [HERE](#) by August 29th!

**Welcome Back BBQ Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.** 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 | \$12 per child [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP!

**Deal Me In: A Sisterhood Game Series Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.** Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the table, this monthly Sisterhood gathering is your chance to connect, unwind, and enjoy a morning (or evening!) of games and good company. Choose your game: Mah Jongg or Canasta – and join fellow women from our community for light snacks, laughter, and low-pressure fun. Bring a foursome, a friend, or just yourself and we'll match you up! Open to all women in our community, all ages and experience levels welcome! RSVP required. [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP!

**Birthday Party for the World Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, immediately following Kehillah Service.** TE Families: Join us on Rosh Hashanah Day 2 after our Kehillah Service at 12:00 PM for TE's Birthday Party for the World on Temple Emanu-El's campus. The party will feature Shofar blowing, activities for all ages, performances by Matty Roxx, and sweet treats. For ALL ages! [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP!

**Please visit the Temple Emanu-El website for more information and to join us virtually: <https://tecloster.org>**