

Ki Tetze
“When you go”

Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19

Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 54:1 - 10

Study Notes

Fair Treatment

1. God goes out of His way to demonstrate fairness and justice to those in His redeemed community who need it the most.
2. The text reveals God’s fairness to women, endangered slaves, people borrowing money, laborers, protection of the vulnerable, fair treatment of animals, limits on flogging, etc.
3. Women
 - 3.1. It is clear that the main reason for such instruction is that God wants fair consideration given to women, who oftentimes, are an abused group in many societies.
 - 3.2. Women Taken Captive
 - 3.3. She was give time to mourn her losses.
 - 3.4. She was to remove all outward appearances of her former life. (21:12-13)
 - 3.5. If he decided not to keep her she could not be sold as a slave but must be released to freedom.
4. Two Wives (21:15-17)
 - 4.1. If one wife was loved over another this could bring dishonor on the unloved wife. If this wife has born the first son he was still to be given his extra portion.
5. Divorce
 - 5.1. The Torah does permit divorce in one situation...”...and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her...” (NASB)
 - 5.2. What does the word “indecency” mean?
 - 5.3. It appears to mean that the woman had committed an immoral act before their marriage and it was not found out until the marriage had taken place.
 - 5.4. If it was adultery after the marriage then there would be no need for this law as adultery brought the death penalty.
 - 5.5. Yeshua also permits divorce according to this teaching (Matthew 5:31). It does not seem to be the ideal but is permitted.
6. Endangered Slaves (23:16-17)

- 6.1. Asylum was to be provided for slaves who escaped abusive situations. Most likely these were slaves from other countries as the Torah has provisions for those abusive to Israelite slaves.
7. Borrowing Money (23:20-21)
 - 7.1. Israelites were not to charge interest to other Israelites.
 - 7.2. The key to understanding this is that they were God's chosen people and that there is blessing found within the covenant community. This is another way for the world to see the difference.

Indifference

1. Your Brother's Property (22:1-4)
 - 1.1. If you see someone's animal going astray you are to help bring it back to the owner. This also goes for clothes or any thing else that is found.
 - 1.2. The word translated "fellow's" actually means "brother's." This would imply that even if we do not know the one who lost the item, if he is part of the redeemed community, he is considered family, and it is our concern.
2. That Which is God's (23:22-24)
 - 2.1. People are not required to make vows; they are voluntary. However, once a vow is made, it may not be broken. Do not delay in fulfilling it.

Consideration

1. Shooing a bird away (22:6 - 7)
 - 1.1. At the heart of this instruction is a mandate to show consideration, even to the most fragile among the animal kingdom.
 - 1.2. Also, it is interesting that this command and the one to honor one's parents are the only ones that carry with them the exact same reward, long life.
 - 1.3. The rabbi's taught that shooing the bird was the easiest command and honoring ones parents was the hardest. Since these 'bookends' carried the reward of long life all the ones in between must as well.
2. Eating From Another's Field (23:25-26)
 - 2.1. On a journey you are permitted to eat from a vineyard or field, but only what you can eat on the spot. You are not allowed to harvest any to take with you.
 - 2.2. Once again we see the benefits of living in the covenant community. (Gal. 6:10)

Holiness

1. Many of the teachings in this sidra instruct God's people to live separate from sin and sinful influences and be devoted to God and His Word.
2. Family Holiness (21:18-21, 24:16)
3. Holiness in Capital Offenses (21:22 - 23)
4. Holiness in the Military (23:10 - 15)
5. Holiness in Religious Practices (23:18 - 19)
6. National Holiness (23:1 - 9)

Holy Pictures

1. Some of God's commands here are best understood in the light of the Brit Hadasha.
2. Compare 22:9 - 10 with Romans 6. Also, 22:10 with 2 Cor. 6:14 - 18.