



**Johannesburg  
Shabbat Times  
Begins: 18:15  
Ends: 19:21**

# IN TOUCH @ GREAT-PARK

## MISHPATIM

BS"D

25 SHEVAT 5772 / 18 FEBRUARY 2012

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM ADAR BIRTH OF THE MOON: WED 08:49:01

[www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za)

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## PARSHA

### EXODUS 21:1-24:18

Hertz Chumash Page 306  
Stone Edition Page 416

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault, and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans, and the responsibilities of the "Four Guardians"; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law. Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of foreigners; the observance of the seasonal festivals, and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the prohibition against

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities

cooking meat with milk; and the mitzvah of prayer. Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains fifty-three mitzvot -- 23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions. G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants. The people of Israel proclaim, "We will do and we will hear all that G-d commands us." Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from G-d.

## HAFTARA

YIRMIYAHU 34:8-22, 33:25-26, Hertz

Chumash Page 323  
Stone Edition Page 1156

In this week's haftarah, Jeremiah describes the punishment that would befall the Jews because they continued enslaving their Hebrew slaves after six years of service--transgressing the commandment discussed in the beginning of this week's Torah reading.

King Zedekiah made a pact with the people according to which they would all release their Jewish slaves after six years of service--as commanded in the Torah. Shortly thereafter, the Jews reneged on this pact and forced their freed slaves to re-enter into service. G-d then

dispatched Jeremiah with a message of rebuke: "Therefore, so says the Lord: You have not hearkened to Me to proclaim freedom, every one to his brother and every one to his neighbour; behold I proclaim freedom to you, says the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine, and I will make you an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth." The haftarah then vividly depicts the destruction and devastation that the Jews would experience. The haftarah concludes with words of reassurance: "Just as I would not cancel My covenant with the day and night and I would not cancel the laws of heaven and earth, so too I will not cast away the descendents of Jacob . . . for I will return their captivity [to their land] and have mercy on them."

## A Different Kind of Spirituality

By Elisha Greenbaum

Spirituality gets a bad rap. Mention the word to the average fellow and it will probably evoke images of eastern gurus dressed in psychedelic caftans chanting at dawn. Even those more Jewishly inclined will most probably aver that to be spiritual you need to have a long white beard, talk softly and spend full days in prayer and private worship.

Are they right?

If you came to *shul* last week and heard

the Torah reading you could be forgiven for thinking so. "G-d descended onto the mountain," an undifferentiated presence of pure G-dliness. Lightning, thunder, fear and trembling seized the world. All creation was silent in awe. Is this not what it takes to be spiritual? Not totally, and sometimes not at

### Times of Services

#### Friday evening:

Mincha 5:45pm  
Kabalat Shabbat 6:00 pm  
Children Service 6:15 pm

#### Shabbat day:

Shacharit 8:45 am  
Children Service 10:30 am  
Mincha 6:15 pm  
Maariv 7:27 pm

#### Weekdays:

Shacharit:  
Sun 7:45 am  
Mon 6:45 am  
Tues, Wed 7:00 am  
Thurs & Fri (Rosh Chodesh) 6:30 am

#### Mincha / Maariv:

Daily 6:00 pm

all. This week we read a different *parshah* -- *Mispatim*. If you were to walk into *shul* without prior warning you could be excused for believing that you'd blundered into a public recitation of assorted torts and damages, as rendered in Biblical Hebrew. We read a compendium of logical, commonsensical laws. This is spirituality? Is this the natural automatic progression -- from G-d descending in all His glory and declaiming the lore at Sinai, to becoming a nation of petty shopkeepers and small time farmers?

Surely G-d has more weighty matters of state than to waste His time (and ours) committing to posterity the laws of returning pledges, litigating minor injuries and paying workers' entitlements?

That, however, is exactly the point. Religiosity and spirituality are expressed best by conforming to the seemingly petty details of daily life. A truly G-dly man operates as a synthesis of the celestial and the mundane. First must come the sense of awe and purpose initiated by an all-encompassing sense of G-d's presence, as expressed in the history-shaping events recorded in last week's *parshah*. And then, and of equal consequence, one must translate this sense of mission into each and every interaction of one's routine existence.

### Adar Joy

"When Adar enters," the Talmud declares, "we increase in joy." For this is "the month that was transformed for them from sorrow to joy, from mourning to festivity" (Esther 9:22) by the great miracle and victory of Purim. Our sages advise that the month of Adar is an auspicious time for the Jewish people, so that if a Jew is faced with a challenging event (i.e., a court case, a medical procedure, etc.) he should endeavor to schedule it during Adar.

## Congregational News

We would like to keep the community informed about events and news in our Congregation. Please phone Sandy 011728 8152 to inform us of Mazeltovs etc. before Wednesday of each week. To receive INTOUCH@GREAT-PARK by email, please send a request to [rabbi@greatpark.co.za](mailto:rabbi@greatpark.co.za)

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Joan and Mike Krost on the birth of their great-grandson born to Daniel and Bianca Rubinstein on 30th January. Sincere mazeltov to the entire family.

Ben Bugai on the occasion of his engagement to Simone Katz. Sincere mazeltov to their parents, Ety & Yosi Bugai and Jill & Allan Katz, grandparents Iris & Joshua Barnes and Joyce Siegerman.

Tamsyn Egnos & Gary Rutstein on the occasion of their marriage, taking place on Sunday 19th February. A very hearty mazeltov to Maya & Eric Rutstein, parents Jennifer Steingold & Terry Egnos, Shelley & Theo Rutstein.

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Myer Fish on the very sad loss of his beloved wife Flora, dearest mother of Victor, grandmother of Steven and their entire families.

## TORAH INSTITUTE

### SHABBAT MORNING SHIUR:

- Parsha Perspectives – In depth studies with Rabbi Y Medalie.
- Shiur with Rabbi Shmuel Simpson after the Kiddush

### SUNDAY MORNING

#### MISHNA: Tractate Shabbat

The Sunday Shiur, 8.45 – 9.15 am in the Small Shul with Rabbi Hazdan,

### TUESDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES OF JEWISH THOUGHT & INTEREST

21 February 2012: 7.45–8.45 pm

## CONTRIBUTING TO AND BUILDING HASHEM'S HOME

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan

Tea will be served following the lecture.  
Donation R10.0

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

#### Shiur for Young Adults!

Join Rabbi Simpson for an in-depth look at the weekly Torah portion

Wednesday evenings 7:45 – 8:45  
10a Currie St. Oaklands.

#### ➤ THE SIDDIR INSPIRED Current Theme: Amidah

Explore all you've wanted to know about the Prayers and Davening from beginning to end.

Wednesdays for 20 minutes before Minchah and 15 minutes thereafter.  
Time 5:40pm. Contact Shaun Wingrin for more info

### THURSDAY EVENING

Talmud Shiur with Rabbi Berel Rodal  
6.30 – 7.30 pm in the Small Shul –  
Tractate Berachot

# RCHCC

**Sunday 19 February at 7.30pm**

### REMINDER

We are privileged to host **Pride of the Nation** Recently injured Israeli combat soldiers who are part of "Hope for Heroism" will be visiting Johannesburg and sharing their experiences as part of their healing and rehabilitation.

**DONATION:** R60.00(including refreshments)

### Supervised Bridge With Jeff Sapire

Tues morning 10.00am - Beginners  
Wed morning 10.00am - Intermediary

**VENUE:** CLIVE M BECK AUDITORIUM  
RCHCC cnr Glenhove Rd & 4th St,  
Houghton **BOOKING:** Hazel or René  
(728 8088/8378)

After Hours(728 8378)

**email:** [hazelc@greatpark.co.za](mailto:hazelc@greatpark.co.za)  
or [renes@greatpark.co.za](mailto:renes@greatpark.co.za)

INTOUCH@GREAT-PARK IS GRATEFUL.  
FOR THE MATERIAL GLEANED FROM  
CHABAD.ORG, TORAH.ORG & OHR SOMEYACH

### JLI LESSON TWO

Monday 20 February 7:30-9:00 pm

**By the sweat of their brows:**  
Wages of the working poor.

Please join us for a

**GREAT PARK  
TEEN DISCUSSION**

For girls aged 15 – 16 years old

**HOW TO FIND JOY**

Saturday, 18 February 2012  
10:45 – 11:45  
@ Great Park Synagogue

For more details contact Sheina: [shazdan@gmail.com](mailto:shazdan@gmail.com); 071 420 3115

- Interactive insightful discussion
- Exciting raffle prize
- Yum Treats



Please only walk across Glenhove Rd. at the robot,