



Parshas Mishpatim, first we will do, then we will listen

This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Shaul Ben Berta and Lior Gabay Ben Michal.

This week's Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Leah Mintche Bas Ya'akov Yosef, Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.

Our Parsha begins with G-d giving Moshe Rabbeinu and the Jewish nation fifty-three new practical commandments. He gave them the laws regarding the treatment of slaves, personal injury, murder, and the requirements of a person who is a guardian of another's property. The Mitzvah to see the Beis Hamikdash three times a year, the laws of shemitah, sacrifices, and returning a lost object.

Moshe then tells the Jewish nation what rewards they will receive for keeping G-d's commandments. There will be no miscarriages, the borders of Israel will grow, and they will conquer the land without opposition.

The Parsha ends with G-d summoning Moshe Rabbienu back up Mt. Sinai to study the Torah for forty days and forty nights. Moshe told the seventy elders that his brother, Aaron, and his nephew, Chur, would answer any questions they had in his absence.

G-d's glory set the mountain top ablaze as Moshe began to ascend the mountain with his most faithful student, Yeshuah Ben Nun. The whole Jewish nation watched as Moshe disappeared into the clouds from afar.

However, a question comes to mind: Our Parsha also recounts the events leading up to the giving of the Torah. As the Pasuk says, (24:7) *“And Moshe took the book of the covenant and read it to the Jewish people, and they responded, all that G-d says, we will do, and we will hear.”*

The Midrash explains that it was because of our statement of **“Naaseh V’nishma”** that G-d gave us the Torah, that we will first do what G-d commands and then find out why. The Midrash continues that when G-d offered the Torah to the other nations of the world, they asked to see what’s inside.

However, the Jewish people just said, **“Naaseh V’nishma”**, they accepted His laws upon themselves without any hesitation. Why did the Jewish nation take upon themselves something they did not know about? How did they know that if they were even capable of keeping it?!

The Gemora in Shabbos (88A) relates a story, once a heretic saw that Rava was so immersed in his learning that he did not realize that his hands were bleeding.

The heretic said to Rava, *“you are from an impulsive nation that gives precedence to your mouths over your ears. You should first listen, and only if you can fulfill the Mitzvahs should you accept them. However, if you aren’t able to fulfill them, then do not accept them”.*

Rava replied to him, “About us, the Pasuk says, (Meishlei 11:3) *“The integrity of the righteous will guide them.”* However, about people like you, the Pasuk ends with *“The crookedness of the faithless will destroy them.”*

Rava was trying to explain to the heretic that it is, in fact, our complete and total trust in G-d, which separates us from all other nations of the world.

When G-d took us out of Egypt, He showed the world that we are His nation, but our faith in Him started earlier than that. It first began with our forefathers, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'akov, answering the call of G-d when no one else would, demonstrating to the world their conviction and love for G-d.

This unconditional belief in G-d is what carries us through unspeakable tragedies and hardships. It gives us the power and strength to overcome the constant troubles and adversities we face. It is the reason that G-d chose us from all other nations.

In our daily life it is imperative that we understand that our belief in G-d must play an integral role in our everyday life. Our Emunah in G-d allows us to not worry about matters that are truly not in our control; instead, focus on what we can accomplish and become more successful and prosperous than we thought possible.

***“Having Emunah means to see the light with your heart
when your eyes only see darkness.”***

*Have a meaningful Shabbos!
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*