

EXODUS 21 IS A CONTINUATION OF EXODUS 20



- BECAUSE OF the chapter marks that were added, it has been a gentile Christian premise that the 10 Commandments are separate from what comes before or after
- The 10 Commandments are the foundational principles AND the first 10 laws
- Like our Constitution Preamble, it acts as “a fence” around how all that follows must be considered

EXODUS 21:1

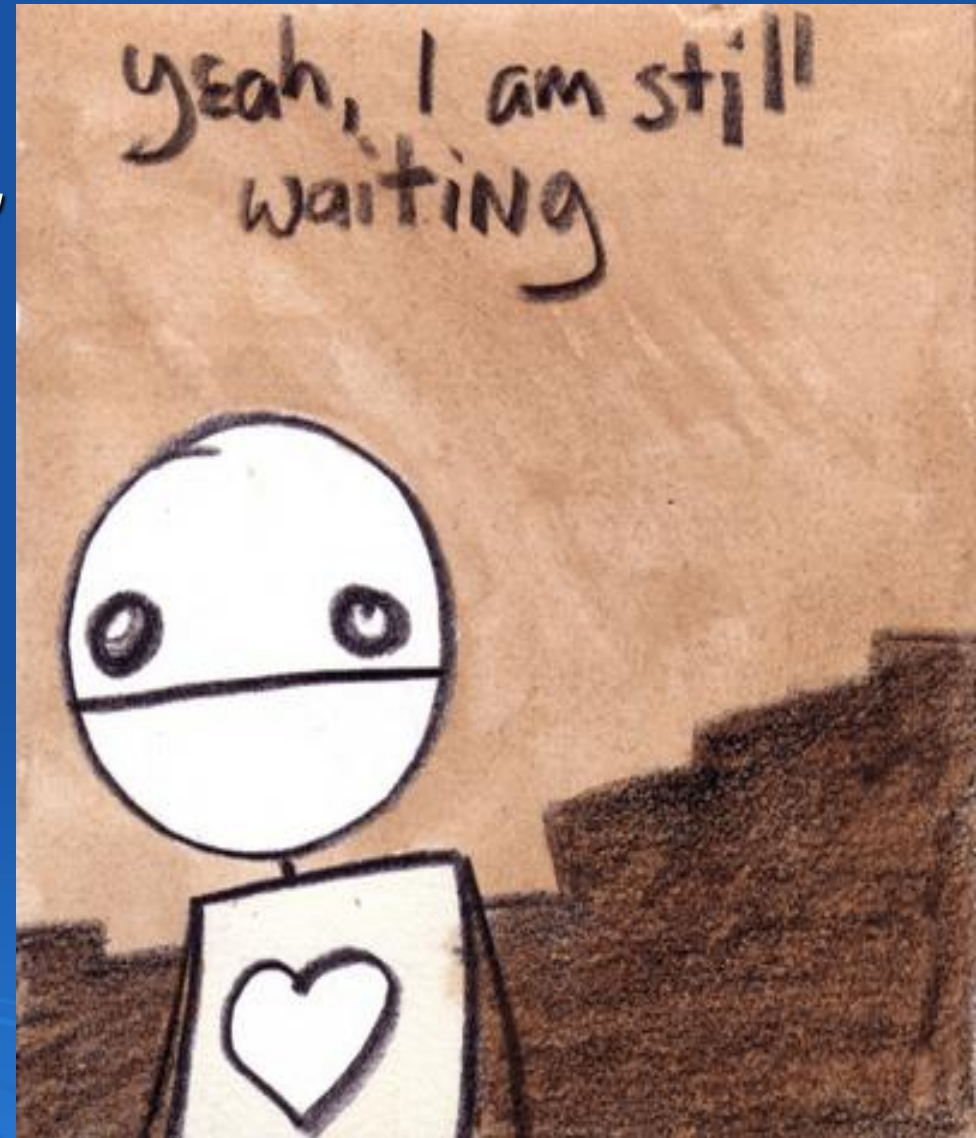
- Verse 1 *“Now these are the rulings you are to present to them...”*
- **RULES**
- **LAWS**
- **JUDGMENTS**
- **ORDINANCES**
- Verse 1 *“Now these are the mishpat you are to present to them...”*

MISHPAT and TZEDEK

- These terms do NOT indicate “law”
- These Hebrew concepts not readily translatable to Greek
- Powerful, divine concepts

Christian vs. OT Hebrew mindset

- Christian: “....we are so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good”
- Our time on Earth sometimes viewed as a waiting period, eternity is the goal
- OT Hebrews: paid little attention to heaven or eternity
- Their time on Earth was their focus

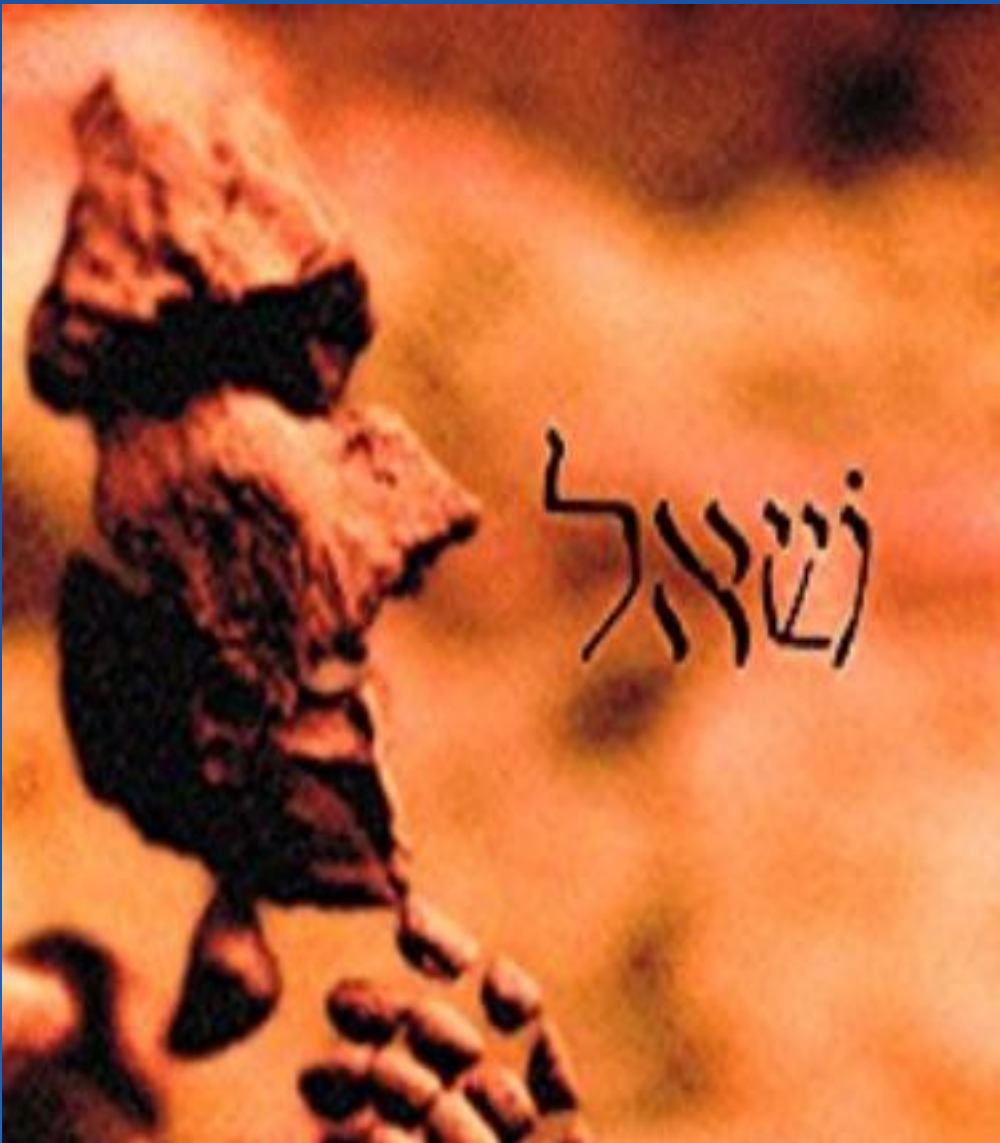


OT says little about *death* and *afterlife*



- Hebrews viewed death as a natural end to life
- Goal was to live out a full, natural life-span
- Bible term ***“cut-off”*** means to die prematurely
- Cut-off is the destiny of the wicked
- Bible term ***“they breathed their last and were gathered to their fathers”***, means that person lived a full, natural life-span

SHEOL



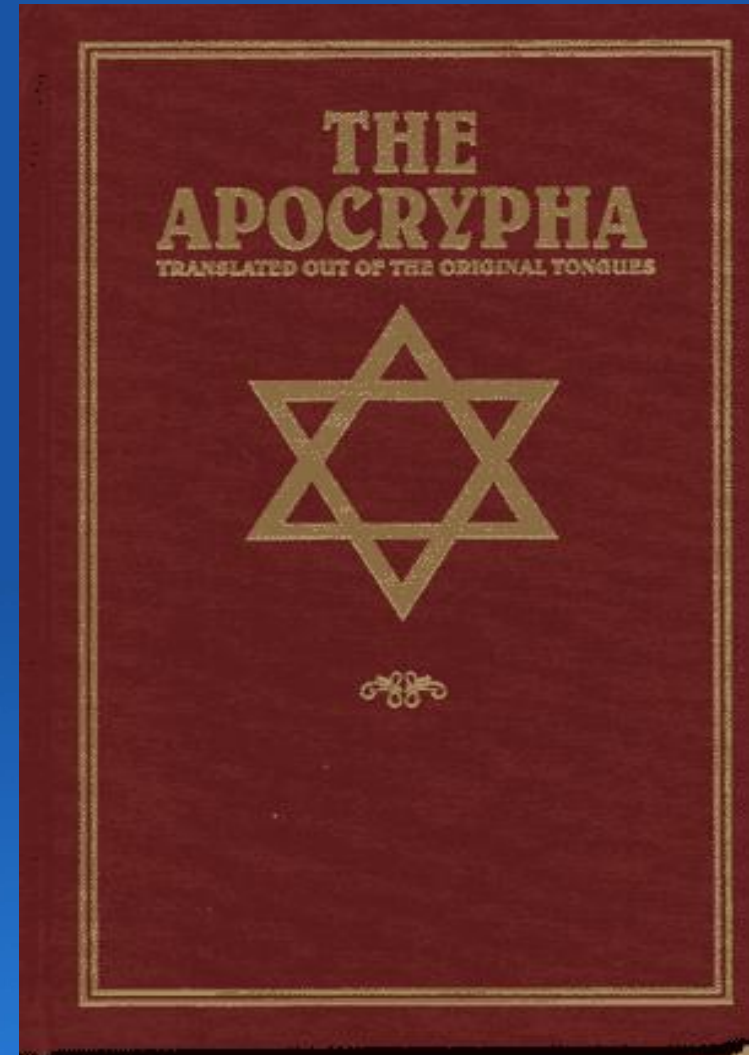
- OT “place of the dead”
- To the OT Hebrew, Sheol was simply the grave, the end of life
- Concept of SHEOL not the same as HADES (New Testament)
- Until about 550BC Hebrews did not have a belief system in an “afterlife”

Death was a separation from YHWH

- OT states ALL go to Sheol
- OT Hebrews did NOT have a cult of the dead
- ALL other cultures ever found had a fully developed Underworld Myth
- Physical life was one's ONLY time to serve Yehoveh
- In Christ's day, Hebrews had developed a strong death and afterlife doctrine
- ***Olam haba*** = "the world to come"

Several books removed from the Protestant Bible

- Apocrypha spans the time from the end of the OT (400 BC) to 0 BC/AD
- Much manmade doctrine and tradition on death and afterlife
- NOT formed by Scripture
- Afterlife still minor EXCEPT in times of great persecution



Christian view different than OT Hebrew view

- OT HEBREW: *present oriented*
- After death no more opportunity to please Yahweh
- Therefore obedience and righteousness in this life was their aim
- MODERN CHRISTIAN: *future oriented*
- After death, an eternal life with God
- Goal is obtaining Eternal Security

What is SALVATION?

➤ OT HEBREW

- An accomplished fact, via their forefathers
- Being a part of the set-apart group (Israel)
- Saved by God's grace from being born a pagan

➤ NT CHRISTIAN

- A future reward for accepting Christ
- Forgiven of sins
- Righteousness based on the work of another (Christ)
- Eternity in a spirit world with God
- Saved from eternal death

The critical words *mishpat and tzedek*

- Mishpat is typically translated as “judgment, rule or justice”
- Tzedek typically translated as “righteous or righteousness”
- Modern Christian understanding of ***TZEDEK***:
“piety, holiness, Godliness” (righteous)

A VERT SPIRIT ORIENTED VIEW

TZEDEK (righteousness)

➤ OT HEBREWS

- Sees *righteous* as:
 - External behavior, attitude, obedience
 - Fairness with his fellow man
 - Doing Justice in God's eyes
 - Standard for being just is "The Law"

➤ N.T. CHRISTIAN

- Sees *righteous* as:
 - Internal condition
 - A spiritual goal
 - Somewhat intangible
 - A state of our spirits
 - Created by our union with Christ

MISHPAT

- Martin Luther translated it to mean:
 - *“To keep God’s Word”*
 - *“To do justly”*
- Gen. 18:19 *“...to keep the way of Yehoveh, to do what is right and just...”*
- *“...to keep the way of Yehoveh, to do TZEDEK and MISHPAT...”*
- The “way of Yehoveh” is taught in **DETAIL** in the Covenant of Moses
- Judgment is usually **NOT** a negative term
- Judgment **MORE** means a determination, in the sense of a judicial ruling

What is God's righteousness?

- It is all about SALVATION.
- God's *tzedek* refers to His saving will and purposes to create a redeemed people
- MEN are the objects of God's saving will
- **In God's eyes, a righteous man is one in whom His saving will is being carried out**
- Since the advent of Christ, a righteous man is a Believer



Doing God's mishpat

- Means that man is acting according to the standard of right set down by Yehoveh as part of His saving will
- ***Mishpat* = To Keep God's Saving Word**
- Isaiah 1:27 ***“Zion will be redeemed with justice (mishpat); those who repent by righteousness (tzedek)”***
- God's ***mishpat*** (Justice) is that man will not pay the penalty...GOD will pay it Himself!

THE GOSPEL



- “The revealed Word, of God’s plan of salvation, for all mankind”
- **God’s Mishpat is the OT term for “Gospel”**
- Isaiah 42:1-4
- **“THE LAW” is the development of the Gospel**
- Gal. 3:6-8
- “The Gospel” was **FIRST** given to Abraham

The Torah is ALSO “The Gospel”

- OT = Gospel Act One
- NT = Gospel Act Two
- Rev. = Gospel Act Three
(finale’)
- The REALITY of DUALITY :
 - The spiritual and the physical exist simultaneously
- Exodus 21:1 *“This is the Gospel that you are to present to them...”*

