

Torah Portion #18: Mishpatim (משפטים) "Ordinances"

Torah ~ Exo. 21:1-24:18 | Prophets ~ Jer. 34:8-22; Malachi 4:1-6 | New Covenant ~ Matt. 17:1-11; Rom. 6:16-23

Consuming Fire

In this weeks Torah portion *Exodus 24:17* says that *"the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire"* MEV. God's Holiness is the reason for His being a consuming fire, and it burns up anything unholy. For those who have chosen to remain in sin, God's glory will consume them (*Deuteronomy 4:24; 9:3*).

The Lord said in *Malachi 4:1* that the wicked *"will be stubble"*, for He *"shall burn them up"*.

At the Great White Throne Judgement in *Rev. 20:12-15*, *"death"* and *"Hell"* will be thrown into the *Lake of Fire*.

Hebrews 10:26-27 says that the fire will *"devour the adversaries"*. Unbelievers will be consumed in the Lake of Fire.

What about those words like eternal, everlasting, and unquenchable?

The useage of the words *"eternal, everlasting, and unquenchable"* does not necessarily point to never ending.

Jude 1:7 says that *Sodom and Gomorrah* suffered the *"eternal fire."* The effects or consequences of the fire is eternal.

2 Pt. 2:6 says that *Sodom and Gomorrah* was turned into *"ashes"* as an example of what will happen to the *"ungodly"*.

Jeremiah 17:27 says the fire that will devour the palaces in Jerusalem will not be *"quenched"*. Yet it is no longer burning.

Ezekiel 20:47 says the fire that will burn the forest of the south *"shall not be quenched"*. Yet it is no longer burning.

Matthew 18:8 & 25:41 speaks of *"everlasting fire"*. The effects of the fire are *"everlasting"*, but not the fire itself.

Matthew 25:46 speaks of *"everlasting punishment"*. It is the consequences of the *punishment* that is *everlasting*.

Matthew 3:12 & Luke 3:17 says that the Lord *"will burn up the chaff (unbelievers) with unquenchable fire"*

In *2 Thess. 1:8-9*, Paul says that those who do not obey the gospel will *"be punished with everlasting destruction."*

Hebrews 6:2 & 9:12 speaks of *"eternal judgement"* and *"eternal redemption"*. (effects or consequences)

After the return of Yeshua, will unbelievers live forever in the Lake of Fire?

Psalms 37:20 says that the wicked will *"perish"* and *"vanish away"* into the *smoke*.

Psalms 37:38 *"But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off."* KJV

Isaiah 47:14 *"Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them"* KJV

Ezekiel 18:4 *"The soul who sins shall die"* NKJV

Matthew 7:13-14 says the *narrow gate* leads to *life* (Heaven) but the *broad gate* leads to *destruction* (Lake of Fire).

Matthew 10:28 *"fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* KJV

James 1:15 *"sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death"* KJV

Will they be different degrees of punishment before unbelievers are destroyed?

God's judgement is always fair. *Exodus 21:24* says *"Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot"*. KJV

Matthew 16:27 *"He will reward each according to his works"*. If the Lord is fair to believers, why not unbelievers.

Hebrews 10:29 says that *"worse punishment"* will be given to those that *"trample the Son of God underfoot"*.

But through Yeshua, we will not experience this consuming fire.

Ezekiel 33:11 *"I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live"* KJV

Romans 6:23 *"For sin's payment is death, but God's gracious gift is eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Lord."* TLV

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 says that the new body that believers will receive at the return of Yeshua will be *"immortal"*.

Conclusion

John 3:16 says all who accepts Yeshua receives *"everlasting life"*. Living forever is a gift from God to believers ONLY.