

**“If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing” Now these *are* the judgments which thou shalt set before them” (Exodus 21:1-2).**

- The Hebrew word “*palil*” means to judge or distinguish the difference between things. As to the difference between gods, we read in Deuteronomy 32:31, “*Indeed our Rock is not like their rock, even our enemies themselves judge this.*”
- The Hebrew word “*din*” is about the LORD, the God of grace and mercy, defending His people. It refers to what is called Halachic judgment which is about elected judges making determinations of how we are to walk to fulfill the teachings and instructions, commonly referred to as the law or the Torah.
  - ✓ *We may sometimes think that we as individuals have a right to decide our fate. Unfortunately, it is not an individual’s right to decide. “Din” means to rule and is the root of the name “Dan,” the tribe whose name means judge.*
  - ✓ *This is interesting particularly in light of Genesis 49:16 where Dan’s father tells his 12 children what shall befall them in the last days. Here, it states, “Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel.”*
  - ✓ *The word “din” is used in 1 Samuel 2:10, “the LORD will judge the ends of the earth”, and in Psalm 135:14, “the LORD will judge His people and have compassion on His servants.”*
- The Hebrew word “*shaphat*” refers to judging sin. In Genesis 18:25 we see Abraham, talking about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, saying that God (Elohim) is “*Judge of all the earth.*” In Deuteronomy 1:16, God instructs judges to “judge righteously,” and in verse 17:12, the man who will not listen to the judge “*shall die.*”
- The Hebrew word “*mishpat*” is from the previous word “*shaphat.*” In Habakkuk, we see that the LORD appointed the Chaldeans to judge – to bring destruction on nations for their sin.
- Now we come to the word “*mishpatim*” – the plural of “*mishpat*”. The *mishpatim* / judgments are the moral laws by which God will judge the world that does not walk with Him or stray from the path.
  - ✓ **Note:** *Regarding the word LORD, it is correctly translated in the Hebrew as Yahweh. Most Bibles show this word as Yehovah --- there are no “Ys” in the Hebrew language.*

The New Testament meanings will be addressed at a later date although, as a rule of Hermeneutics, we always refer back to when the word is or was first used --- in the Old Testament in many, many cases.