

February 9, 2013 – Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1-24:18)

Mishpatim contains the greatest single number of laws in a portion in the Torah, and ends with one of the most mystical passages the Torah has to offer. We discussed some of the laws, and some of the commentary about those laws. We asked what relevance some of the laws might have for us today, taken in their plain meaning, and we concentrated some of the discussion on the basic law which inspired an entire canon of Kashrut law: “You shall not boil a calf in its mother’s milk,”

In addition to the plain meaning of the laws, we looked at some of the ways in which the laws could be extrapolated for relevance to us in this day and age, going beyond the surface to some of the potential teachings relating to family and to overall civil society.