

Tzedakah and Mishpat

“The way of the
Lord—doing
righteousness
(*tzedakah*) and
justice (*mishpat*)”

(Gen. 18:19)



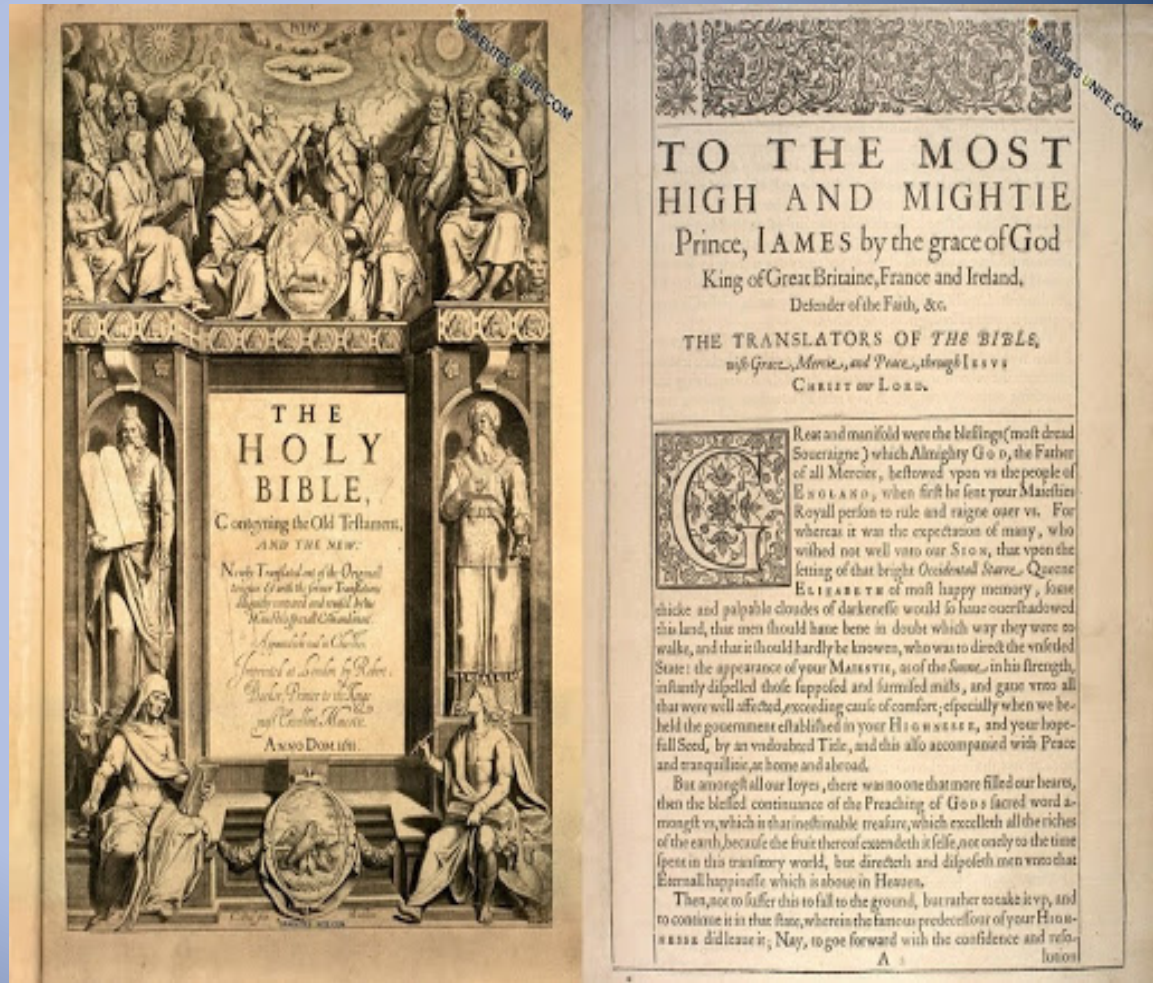
Amos 5:24—“Let *mishpat* roll down like
waters and *tzedakah* like a mighty
stream”

King James and Justice

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his justice”

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice”

“If your justice does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven”



Justice does not wear a blindfold

Appoint judges and officials for your tribes in all your towns the Lord your God is giving you.



They are to judge the people with righteous judgment.

Deuteronomy 16:18

Compassionate Justice

“If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, return it by sunset, for it is his only covering for his body. What else can he sleep in? When he cries out to me, I will hear for I am compassionate.”

(Ex. 22:26-27)

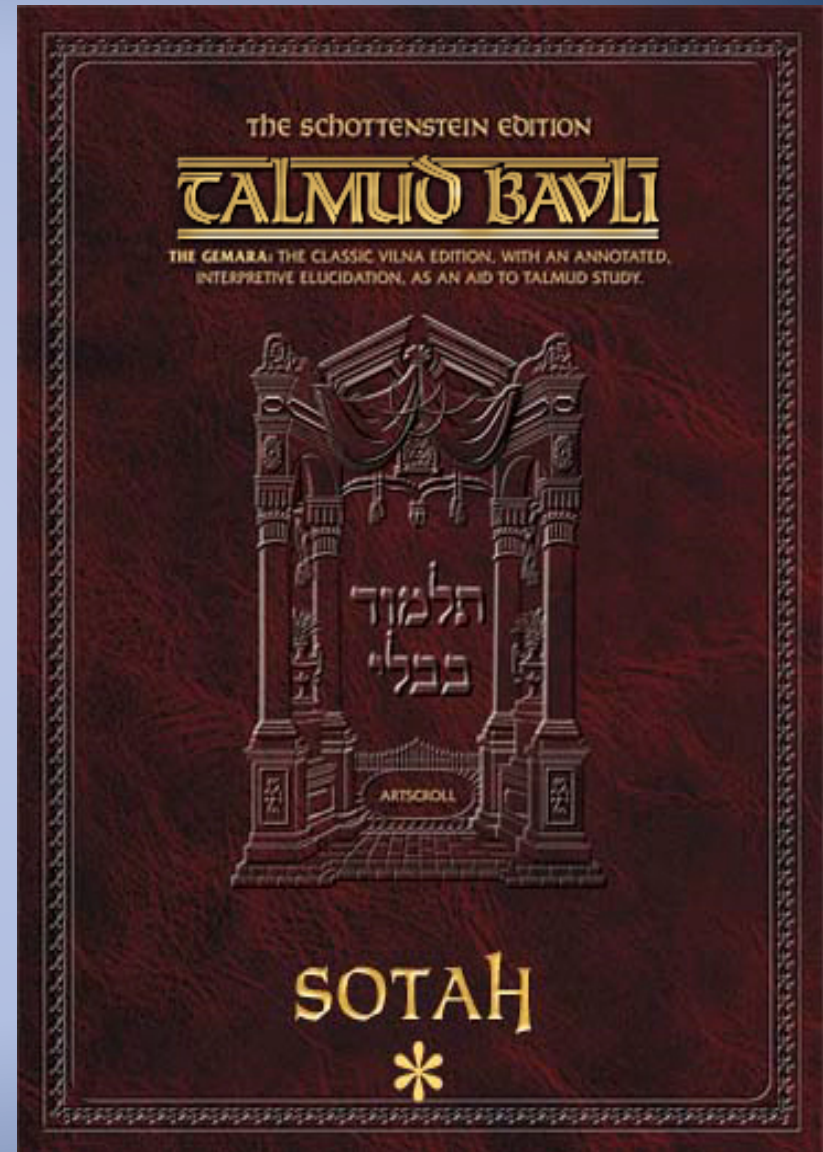


Pottery Fragment, 630 BC, found near Tel Aviv, in which a harvest worker appeals to the governor for the return of his cloak which was taken by his supervisor

Commentary on Deuteronomy 21:1-9

“Did it enter our minds that the Elders of a court of justice are shedders of blood? Rather, (it means) that the victim did not come to us and we dismissed him without supplying him with food; we did not see him and then leave him to depart alone without escort.”

(Sotah 45b)



From the Torah: "If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself, you shall support him. Do not take interest or otherwise profit from him." ~Leviticus 25:35-36



Jesus saying inspired by the Torah: "If you lend to those from whom you hope to profit, what merit is there in that? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to profit. Rather, do good by lending and expecting nothing in return." ~Luke 6:34-35; Matthew 5:42, 46

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Knowing God

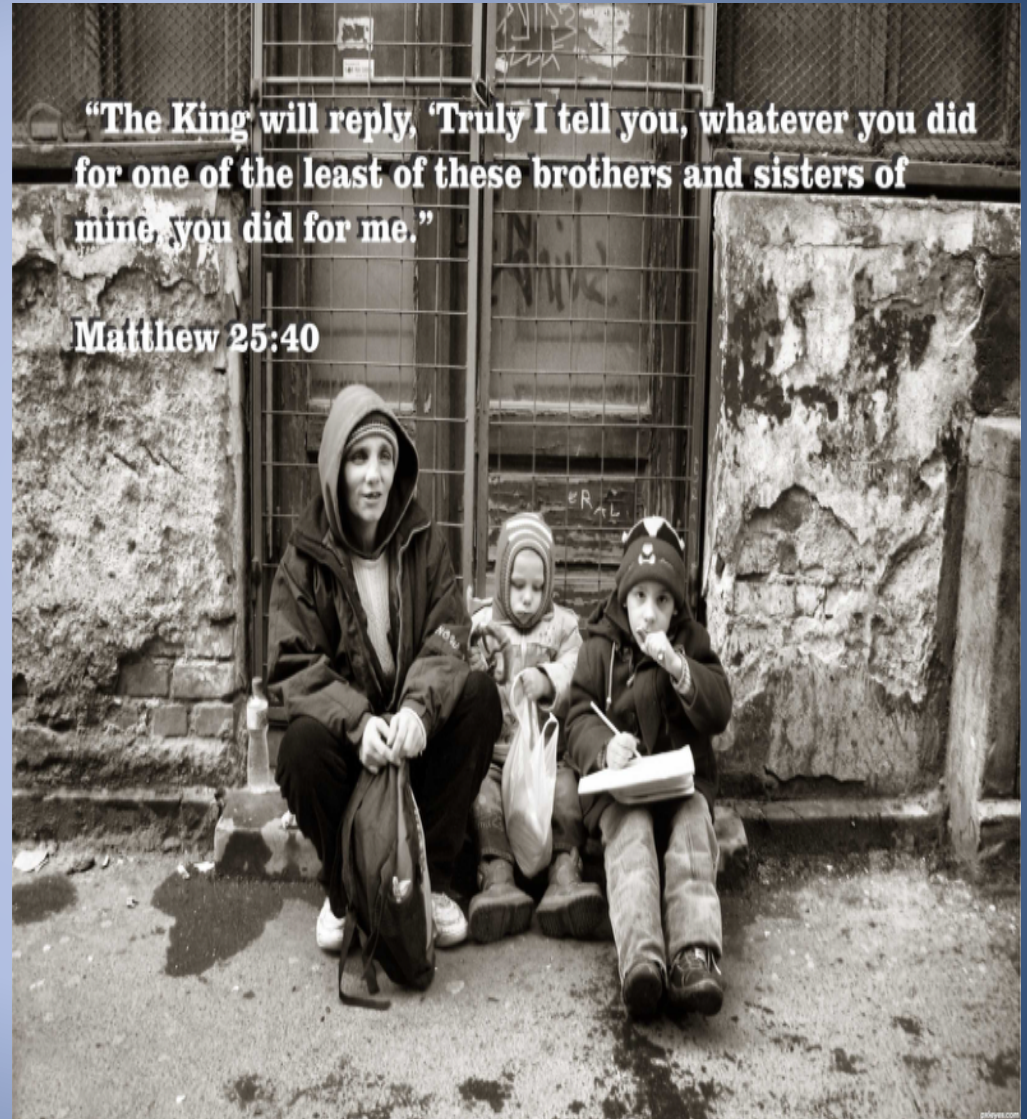
*"... He did what was right and just, ...
He defended the cause of the poor and needy, ...
Is that not what it means to know me?"
declares the Lord.*

Jeremiah 22:15-16 NIV



"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:40



Tzedakah: Giving as Justice

Even a poor person who lives on tzedakah is obligated to give tzedakah to another.

(Gittin 7b)





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The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
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