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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Shelach - One Law For All

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Shelach, which is Hebrew for “Send,” and it goes from Numbers 13:1 to Numbers 15:41.

This Torah portion discusses the twelve spies who went to assess the Promised Land and came back with a bad report. This story is followed by various commandments about offerings, the story about the Sabbath breaker and his punishment, and then the commandment about wearing *tzitziyot* or tassels.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about how God has one Law for his people.

Numbers 15:15-16

For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the Lord [YHWH]. One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.”

These verses teach us that both native-born Israelites and the strangers that join them are allowed to participate in the worship services at the Tabernacle. The laws concerning the offerings at the Tabernacle apply to both of them equally. There is no double standard.

We see this language of one law for all applied elsewhere in the Torah. For instance, both the native-born Israelite and the stranger are to observe:

- The Sabbath (Exodus 20:10)
- Passover (Numbers 9:14)
- Unleavened Bread (Exodus 12:19)
- Yom Kippur (Leviticus 16:29)
- Shavuot (Deuteronomy 16:11)

- Sukkot (Deuteronomy 16:14)

And there are many other examples.

We see this also in the New Testament. For instance, in Acts 15, the apostles affirmed that there is no distinction between Jews and Gentiles in regard to the gospel—both are saved on the basis of grace through faith (Acts 15:6-11). In fact, after giving four basic rules that new Gentile believers must follow to take part in the synagogue meetings, James implies an expectation that they would be instructed in the Torah every Sabbath alongside the Jewish believers (Acts 15:21).

Sadly, there are some today who teach that non-Jews who have drawn near to the God of Israel are not given the same law. You'll often hear that Gentiles are not to keep commands like the Sabbath, despite the fact that the Scriptures explicitly state that these commands are given to the stranger.

While men often try to exclude others from God's words and blessings, God doesn't exclude anyone. He wants all who draw near to him to receive the same blessings that come with walking according to his one law for all.

For more information on this important topic, please see our teachings [Grafted In](#), [The 7 Laws of Noah](#), and [Acts 15 - Obedience or Legalism](#)?

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminatoTodo.net

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