

A World Without Lies

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Lies are the antithesis of truth: a liar seeks to misdirect the hearers of his lies; the liar has an agenda that he wishes to conceal; **lies leave people in a confused state**. The word of God, **the Bible**, is the **only sure source of truth** (Jh17:17, 8:32). In the World Tomorrow the truth of the Bible **will free all humanity from the lies of this world** (Dt15:4b, Lv25:10aβ). It all starts with **education** (Dt31:11b-13a). We can prepare for it now by **developing a deeper understanding of the truth**, the word of God, the Bible (Dt4:5a,6a).

What is truth?: The Apostle John reports Jesus' clear and specific teaching on "truth" – "**your word is truth**" (Jh17:17,8a, 14:6, 8:31b-32,44aα,45, 4:23, 16:13a). **Jesus Christ is the living word** of God (Is45:19b, Pr12:19a, Ps119:160a, 5:9a, 15:2, 25:5a)

A World Based on Truth: The economy will be very different – there will be no "big banks" (Ex22:25, Dt23:19, Ez18:5,8a); no "big pharma" (Ex15:26b, Ps103:2-3); there will be **universal abundance** (Mc4:4, Ez36:8-9,29b-30, Joel 2:23-24,26a, Am9:13aβ,14b); no "recessions" (Dt15:1-2,4a,7-9); and no "generational poverty" (Lv25:8-10).

Education Will Start With the Bible: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your children ...**" (Dt4:8-9, 6:4-9, 29:29). "... read this *torah* ... little ones ... children ... **hear and learn to fear YHWH your God ...**" (Dt31:10-13a). "... **the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YHWH as the waters cover the sea**" (Is11:9, 33:5-6a, 30:20b-21a, Jr3:15, MI2:7).

How Do We Prepare?: The juxtaposition of the two words, **statutes and mish^epatim**, occurs many times in the Bible. In the Writings of Moses, "**statutes**" **cover a broad range of topics** including: proper worship, civil duties, criminal activity, and moral and ethical responsibilities. For Israel, they were intended to be explicitly adhered to; but, more importantly, they were meant as **examples from which the mind of God could be understood** in comparable and related situations. **This is how they are of value today.**

mish^epat and mish^epatim: Both *mish^epat*, singular, and *mish^epatim*, plural, are **very complicated with many nuances of meaning**. From the **perspective of God's teaching on salvation**, the singular "*mish^epat*" means "**justness**", the "**state of being just**" – when it is used with reference to a **character attribute** of God, or a character attribute God requires of True Worshipers. When *mish^epat* is used in a more abstract sense, "**justice**" is the closest translation. The plural, **mish^epatim**, has a **completely different range of meaning** (Is26:7-9, Ps103:6-9, 36:5-6, 19:7-11, Dt4:1a,2,5-8).

Way the Juxtaposition?: "**Statutes**" are like "**raw material**" from which inferences can be made. Knowing and understanding the "statutes" allows a person to **apply the mind of God to similar or related circumstances**. The ability to do this is *mish^epatim*, **understanding, wisdom, and discernment** that comes from living by the Way of God and knowing the nature of God. This is called "**inductive reasoning**": "to infer general conclusions from particular premisses". This is a skill we need to develop, and, of course, we need to know what the statutes actually say and what they meant literally to the original recipients. **For example, "you shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk"** (Ex23:12,14-15a,16,19b,20,23-24). The ways of the people in Canaan, such as "boiling a kid in its mother's milk", are so obviously and blatantly wrong, that God includes it, almost sarcastically, before he goes into the details of the conquest. This is the **metaphor of violence**: to bring about the utopia of the World Tomorrow, extreme vigilance will be required on our part to eradicate all vestiges of the ways of this world – the lies that have made the world the way it is.

The word of God, the Bible, is the only sure source of "truth". **Jesus Christ is the living word of God** – at the Second Advent, he will direct us to **eradicate the lies of this world and replace them with "truth"**. The basis of the change will be **education based on the Bible**, for all people, especially children. We can **prepare now** by developing a deeper understanding of the Bible, in particular "**statutes**" and "**mish^epatim**". We need to develop our ability to do "**inductive reasoning**" – understanding the principles behind statutes and applying them to related situations; "**mish^epatim**" implies this ability; "**mish^epatim**" is developed by **living by the Way of God** – which is our purpose in this life.

The material is based on the paper "**The Human Condition**" available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/>.

The PowerPoint slides are located at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>.