

Lesson 28 – Structure of Hukim Section - Summary

Objective:

This is a good point to review the entire Hukim section. It is also a good time for a midterm since we have covered half of Sefer Debarim. By focusing on the structure of each chapter and of each major section, we have been able to better identify the themes and key points of each part of Moshe's speech. Students should be able to identify each section and summarize the key points.

Activity:

Present the chart below and go through each box and each arrow. Go around the room and let each student explain one arrow describing how the target box connects with the source. Students should realize at the end that what at first appeared to be a random selection of different topics is actually part of a very complex web of connections. Each section makes connections to the immediately surrounding sections as well as to the larger framework of expansions upon the ten commandments and expansions upon those expansions.

There remain a few questions about the order of topics which students may ask about:

- a. *Why is eating meat explained before elaborating on bad influences in the beginning of chapter 12?*
- b. *Why is Ma'aser and Firstborn laws from chapter 12 expanded after the commandment 5 elaboration and not within the commandment 3 section?*
- c. *Why is Commandment 5 expanded before commandment 4?*

a. Eating Meat Outside the temple is a great innovation here which requires immediate attention. It is so important that it is already mostly explained within the first paragraph.

b. Ma'aser is after commandment 5 laws for several reasons: 1) it connects with the end of kashrut laws. 2) the seventh year of Shemitah and slaves connect with the upcoming expansion on Shabbat laws, 3) to keep a general progression from ben adam lamakom to ben adam lehaveiro in keeping with the order of the ten commandments.

c. This reasoning also explains why commandment 5, whose elaboration is no longer honoring human parents but God, is moved before the Sabbath which has a strong humanitarian element.

The next part of the speech will focus on ben adam lehaveiro as a series of expansions on the second half of the ten commandments.

