

LIVE IN THEM*

וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־חֻקֹּתַי וְאֶת־מִשְׁפָּטַי

אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אִתְּם הָאָדָם

וְחֵי בָהֶם

אֲנִי יְהוָה:

And you shall therefore keep My statutes and My ordinances,
which if a person does them
shall live in them:
I am Adonai.

And you shall therefore—Because you are to be holy to Me, you shall not follow the corrupt practices of the Egyptians or assimilate with the Canaanites (18:3), lest you bring down upon yourselves the same judgments they suffered. *Keep My statutes and My ordinances*—You shall “study with intention to practice” (S.R. Hirsch) those of My mitzvot which are comprehensible to you in their purpose and those which are not, “keeping” and “doing” both (Rashi). *Which if a person does them shall live in them*—In doing them you shall remain within a community of living faith, fully alive in the purpose and well-being they lend to the life of the people, and never suffering mortal danger or death because of them (Yoma 88b). *I am Adonai*—Thus you shall remain aligned eternally with the divine purposes of your ineffable Creator

* Leviticus 18:5 (in Aharei Mot)