

PARASHA TZAV (COMMAND) PART 1 LEV 6:7-11, JER 7:21-28, 1 PETER 2:21-25

Last week we were focused on the individual as he was an active participant in the “drawing near” process of the sacrifice. This week we are focused on the role that the priest will play in the ongoing, permanent features of the sacrifice. Why should these instructions to the priesthood matter to us? Because as believers in Messiah, we belong to the priesthood:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rev 1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His Yah and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

That does not mean that we are Levites. There have been changes made to the priesthood:

Heb 7:11-17 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aharon? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Adonai arose from Judah, of which tribe Moshe spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

As believers in Messiah Yeshua, we are privileged to be a part of the Priesthood of Melchizedek. The Priesthood of Melchizedek is the heavenly kingdom that Yeshua said is at hand...

Mat 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Now if Yeshua were on earth today, He would not be a “Levitical” high Priest (Cohen Gadol)

Heb 8:4-5 Now if he were on earth, he wouldn't be a cohen at all, since there already are cohanim offering the gifts required by the Torah. But what they are serving is only a copy and shadow of the heavenly original; for when Moshe was about to erect the Tabernacle, God warned him, "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain."

Vayikra (Leviticus) is the heart of the Torah. In fact, we can look at the whole Torah as one large chiastic structure:

A. Bereshith (Genesis) - Pre-history Israel

B. Shemot (Exodus) - Israel's journey through the wilderness

C. Vayikra (Leviticus) - focus is on drawing near to the Almighty

B1. Bemidbar (Numbers) - Israel's journey through the wilderness

A1. Devarim (Deuteronomy) - Israel's future

Vayikra is the center of our chiastic and therefore the focal point. At the center of Vayikra is Chapter 19, known as the “holiness code”:

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Lev 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I **YHWH** your Elohim am holy. (Read **1Peter 1:15-17**)

The book of Leviticus contains all the instructions on how to be Holy and approach and dwell with Him, and all of that also entails on how to deal with your fellow Israelite, so we may be Holy as a people, and dwell with Him! With that in mind, tonight's Parsha...

Lev 6:1-11 (5:20-6:4) **YHWH** said to Moshe, "If someone sins and acts perversely against **YHWH** by dealing falsely with his neighbor in regard to a deposit or security entrusted to him, by stealing from him, by extorting him, or by dealing falsely in regard to a lost object he has found, or by swearing to a lie — if a person commits any of these sins, then, if he sinned and is guilty, he is to restore whatever it was he stole or obtained by extortion, or whatever was deposited with him, or the lost object which he found, or anything about which he has sworn falsely. He is to restore it in full plus an additional one-fifth; he must return it to the person who owns it, on the day when he presents his guilt offering. He is to bring as his guilt offering to **YHWH** a ram without defect from the flock, or its equivalent according to your appraisal, to the cohen; it is a guilt offering. Thus the cohen will make atonement for him before **YHWH**, and he will be forgiven in regard to whatever it was he did that made him guilty **YHWH** said to Moshe, "Give this order to Aharon and his sons: 'This is the law for the burnt offering [Hebrew: `olah]: it is what goes up [Hebrew: `olah] on its firewood upon the altar all night long, until morning; in this way the fire of the altar will be kept burning. When the fire has consumed the burnt offering on the altar, the cohen, having put on his linen garment and covered himself with his linen shorts, is to remove the ashes and put them beside the altar. Then he is to remove those garments and put on others, before carrying the ashes outside the camp to a clean place. (once the ashes are there it is no longer a "clean place")

In **6:5** or **(5:24)** If you are found guilty of theft or swindle, you are to restore the original amount, plus ONE-FIFTH. I believe the reason for the additional one-fifth is to be reinstated back into the census of Israel...

Exo 30:13 Everyone subject to the census is to pay as an offering to **YHWH** half a shekel [one-fifth of an ounce of silver]- by the standard of the sanctuary shekel (a shekel equals twenty gerahs).

Exo 38:26 This was a beka per person, that is, half a shekel [one-fifth of an ounce], using the sanctuary shekel, for everyone twenty years old or older counted in the census, 603,550 men.

The ancient shekel is made of silver, silver represents redemption of Israel (**Jer 6:30** or **Ezek 22:22**) ...

Hos 3:1-5 **YHWH** said to me, "Go once more, and show love to [this] wife [of yours] who has been loved by her boyfriend, to this adulteress — just as **YHWH** loves the people of Isra'el, even though they turn to other gods and love the raisin cakes [offered to them]." So I bought her back for myself with fifteen pieces of silver and eight bushels of barley. Then I told her, "You are to remain in seclusion for a long time and be mine. You are not to be a prostitute, and you are not to be with any other man; and I won't come in to have sex with you either." For the people of Isra'el are going to be in seclusion for a long time without a king, prince, sacrifice, standing-stone, ritual vest or household gods. Afterwards, the people of Isra'el will repent and seek **YHWH** their **Elohim** and David their king; they will come trembling to **YHWH** and his goodness in the end times.

And again, as part of the reunification of all Israel...

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Zech 13:9 *That third part I will bring through the fire; I will refine them as silver is refined, I will test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is my people' and they will say, 'YHWH is my Elohim.' "*

So why is it important to be counted amongst Israel???

Rev 7:4-10 *I heard how many were sealed — 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el: From the tribe of Y'hudah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Re'uven 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naftali 12,000, from the tribe of M'nasheh 12,000, from the tribe of Shim'on 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Yissakhar 12,000, from the tribe of Z'vulun 12,000, from the tribe of Yosef 12,000, from the tribe of Binyamin 12,000. After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands; and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

As believers and followers of the Messiah and the Torah (**Rev 12:17** & **Rev 14:12**), we are grafted into the "Olive Tree of Israel" ...

Rom 11:11-26 *"In that case, I say, isn't it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?" Heaven forbid! Quite the contrary, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy. Moreover, if their stumbling is bringing riches to the world — that is, if Isra'el's being placed temporarily in a condition less favored than that of the Gentiles is bringing riches to the latter — how much greater riches will Isra'el in its fullness bring them! However, to those of you who are Gentiles I say this: since I myself am an emissary sent to the Gentiles, I make known the importance of my work in the hope that somehow I may provoke some of my own people to jealousy and save some of them! For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead! Now if the hallah offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole loaf. And if the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you — a wild olive — were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree, then don't boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you. So you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." True, but so what? They were broken off because of their lack of trust.*

However, you keep your place only because of your trust. So don't be arrogant; on the contrary, be terrified! For if God did not spare the natural branches, he certainly won't spare you! So take a good look at God's kindness and his severity: on the one hand, severity toward those who fell off; but, on the other hand, God's kindness toward you — provided you maintain yourself in that kindness! Otherwise, you too will be cut off! Moreover, the others, if they do not persist in their lack of trust, will be grafted in; because God is able to graft them back in. For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree! For, brothers, I want you to understand this truth which God formerly concealed but has now revealed, so that you won't imagine you know more than you actually do. It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra'el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness; and that it is in this way

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that all Isra'el will be saved. As the Tanakh says, "Out of Tziyon will come the Redeemer; he will turn away ungodliness from Ya`akov

Eph 3:5-11 *In past generations it was not made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his emissaries and prophets, that in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised. I became a servant of this Good News by God's gracious gift, which he gave me through the operation of his power. To me, the least important of all God's holy people, was given this privilege of announcing to the Gentiles the Good News of the Messiah's unfathomable riches, and of letting everyone see how this secret plan is going to work out. This plan, kept hidden for ages by God, the Creator of everything, is for the rulers and authorities in heaven to learn, through the existence of the Messianic Community, how many-sided God's wisdom is. This accords with God's age-old purpose, accomplished in the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.*

If any of us make it to "Heaven" or "New Jerusalem", there is no gate that says "christian", "church" or "judaism". We must all entire through a tribal gate of Israel...

Rev 21:12 *It had a great, high wall with twelve gates; at the gates were twelve angels; and inscribed on the gates were the names of the twelve tribes of Isra'el.*

So all that to say that the extra one-fifth added is to make restitution, so you can be numbered with Israel and not be "outside the camp" there are many things that can lead to be brought "outside the camp" Uncleanliness, Leapersy, Blaspheming YHWH's name, violating Shabbat, just to name a few. Yeshua talks about being "outside the camp" in many of His parables...

Mat 8:11-12 *Moreover, I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west to take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov. But those born for the Kingdom will be thrown outside in the dark, where people will wail and grind their teeth!"*

Mat 13:41-43 *The Son of Man will send forth his angels, and they will collect out of his Kingdom all the things that cause people to sin and all the people who are far from Torah; and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where people will wail and grind their teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let him hear!*

Mat 13:49-52 *So it will be at the close of the age — the angels will go forth and separate the evil people from among the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will wail and grind their teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" "Yes," they answered. He said to them, "So then, every Torah-teacher who has been made into a talmid for the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a home who brings out of his storage room both new things and old." When Yeshua had finished these parables, he left*

Mat 22:2-14 *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son, but when he sent his slaves to summon the invited guests to the wedding, they refused to come. So he sent some more slaves, instructing them to tell the guests, 'Look, I've prepared my banquet, I've slaughtered my bulls and my fattened cattle, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding!' But they weren't interested and went*

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off, one to his farm, another to his business; and the rest grabbed his slaves, mistreated them and killed them. The king was furious and sent his soldiers, who killed those murderers and burned down their city. "Then he said to his slaves, 'Well, the wedding feast is ready; but the ones who were invited didn't deserve it. So go out to the street-corners and invite to the banquet as many as you find.' The slaves went out into the streets, gathered all the people they could find, the bad along with the good; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. "Now when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who wasn't dressed for a wedding (White robes **Rev 7:13-14**); so he asked him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him outside in the dark! In that place people will wail and grind their teeth, for many are invited, but few are chosen."

Mat 24:44-51 Therefore you too must always be ready, for the Son of Man will come when you are not expecting him. "Who is the faithful and sensible servant whose master puts him in charge of the household staff, to give them their food at the proper time? It will go well with that servant if he is found doing his job when his master comes. Yes, I tell you that he will put him in charge of all he owns. But if that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is taking his time'; and he starts beating up his fellow servants and spends his time eating and drinking with drunkards; then his master will come on a day the servant does not expect, at a time he doesn't know; and he will cut him in two and put him with the hypocrites, where people will wail and grind their teeth!

Mat 25:26-41 'You wicked, lazy servant!' said his master, 'So you knew, did you, that I harvest where I haven't planted? and that I gather where I didn't sow seed? Then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would at least have gotten back interest with my capital! Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten. For everyone who has something will be given more, so that he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him out in the dark, where people will wail and grind their teeth! "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, accompanied by all the angels, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The 'sheep' he will place at his right hand and the 'goats' at his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you made me your guest, I needed clothes and you provided them, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the people who have done what God wants will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you our guest, or needing clothes and provide them? When did we see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' The King will say to them, 'Yes! I tell you that whenever you did these things for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did them for me!' "Then he will also speak to those on his left, saying, 'Get away from me, you who are cursed! Go off into the fire prepared for the Adversary and his angels!

Luke 13:23-28 Someone asked him, "Are only a few people being saved?" He answered, "Struggle to get in through the narrow door, because — I'm telling you! — many will be demanding to get in and won't be able to, once the owner of the house has gotten up and shut the door. You will stand outside, knocking at

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the door and saying, 'Lord! Open up for us!' But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from!' Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you! you taught in our streets!' and he will tell you, 'I don't know where you're from. Get away from me, all you workers of wickedness!' You will cry and grind your teeth when you see Avraham, Yitz'chak, Ya`akov and all the prophets inside the Kingdom of God, but yourselves thrown outside.

Rev 22:14-15 How blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they have the right to eat from the Tree of Life and go through the gates into the city! Outside are the homosexuals, those involved with the occult and with drugs, the sexually immoral, murderers, idol-worshippers, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

So make restitution, repent and forgive! Be numbered with Israel, or you will be “outside” (a representation of Hell)!

In v**10** & **11** The ashes of the sacrifice are to be brought “outside the camp” (a representation of Hell) this symbolizes what Yeshua did...

Heb 13:11-15 For the cohen hagadol brings the blood of animals into the Holiest Place as a sin offering, but their bodies are burned outside the camp. So too Yeshua suffered death outside the gate, in order to make the people holy through his own blood. Therefore, let us go out to him who is outside the camp and share his disgrace. For we have no permanent city here; on the contrary, we seek the one to come. Through him, therefore, let us offer God a sacrifice of praise continually. For this is the natural product of lips that acknowledge his name.

Rev 1:18 the Living One. I (Yeshua) was dead, but look! — I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh'ol.

Paul uses this language as an analogy...

1Cor 5:9-13 In my earlier letter I wrote you not to associate with people who engage in sexual immorality. I didn't mean the sexually immoral people outside your community, or the greedy, or the thieves or the idol-worshippers — for then you would have to leave the world altogether! No, what I wrote you was not to associate with anyone who is supposedly a brother but who also engages in sexual immorality, is greedy, worships idols, is abusive, gets drunk or steals. With such a person you shouldn't even eat! For what business is it of mine to judge outsiders? Isn't it those who are part of the community that you should be judging? God will judge those who are outside. Just expel the evildoer from among yourselves.

Shabbat Shalom! Written by Jesse Himango, Tabernacle of David Ministries