

DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

From Time Immemorial: A Debar Torah for Parashat Tsav on Consecration Shabbat, Shabbat HaGadol

According to the chapter and verse numbering system in our Hebrew Masoretic text, our Parasha, Parashat Tsav, begins a new chapter in Leviticus, Chapter 6. Many Jews are not aware, however, that in most Christian Bibles, although the paragraphs and the order at the end of Chapter 5 and chapter 6 are intact, they are numbered differently: Christian Bibles begin their Chapter 6 with what is numbered for us as 5:20-26; they consider Chapter 6 as starting six verses earlier. Our 6:1-23 become for Christians their 6:8-30.

My attention this week was drawn to the terms referencing the “day of anointing” of the priests in (our number system) 6:13 and then again in 7:35 & 36. Although this might literally be taken to mean that these were sacrifices specifically offered upon some Priestly Inauguration Day, the context goes back and forth talking about everyday types of offerings. It thus makes much better sense to interpret the text to mean “since the day he was anointed [or they were anointed]. Our text is speaking about the rules about all of the types of regular offerings which have been in effect since the time the very first priests, Aaron and his sons, began to serve. Our text adds these bits about “since Aaron’s anointment day” for emphasis: To show that these sacrifices have been executed according to this exact procedure from time immemorial, from the days Aaron and his sons first began to serve. Thus anyone who might change any of these sacrificial procedures is violating sanctified procedure since time immemorial. There were indeed times when Priests stole portions of the sacrifices which they were not entitled to and violated these procedures. By emphasizing that these procedures had been used from the days of Aaron’s serving in the Tabernacle in the Desert, our text emphasizes the graveness of any such violations.

Our Shabbat HaGadol at Shearith Israel is always the anniversary of the Consecration of our 1818 Second Mill Street Building, and this year it falls upon Parashat Tsav. It behooves us to think about how practices carried out from times in the hoary past obligate us all the more, the more they recede in our memory. The past itself consecrates practice and commands respect. If past laws and practices have held us together for so long, then they hold the greatest promise that they can and will hold us together for the future, provided we follow the same rules. “Instruction” comes from the same root as “structure:” Follow the same instructions, and the structures of life and living tradition will last from time immemorial and far off into the future.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Tsav-HaGadol

March 31-April 1, 2023 | 10 Nisan 5783

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Hertz: p. 429 | Haftarah: p. 1005 || Kaplan: p. 520 | Haftarah: p. 1288

Consecration Anniversary, 2nd Mill Street Synagogue (1818)

Candle Lighting | 7:02 pm

Friday Evening Services | 7:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

Zemirot | 8:15 am

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Youth Program | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Shabbat HaGadol Derasha | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik | following services

Just Kidding: The Wondrously Complex History &

Sublimely Simple Message of Had Gadya

See inside for sponsorship listings

Kiddush | following services | Levy Auditorium

No Shabbat Afternoon class this week.

Evening Services | 7:00 pm | Main Sanctuary

Habdala | 7:57 pm

Pesah begins on Wednesday night. See inside for schedule.

Weekday Service Times

Mornings:

Sunday: 8:05 am | Monday-Friday: 7:05 am

Evenings:

Sunday-Tuesday: **6:30 pm**

If you can help out and attend minyan, morning or evening, please contact Z. Edinger.

Shabbat HaGadol Derasha Sponsors:

Linda & Michael Jesselson, upon the *nahala* of Ludwig Jesselson
Debbie & David Sable, in memory of Debbie's father,
Ambassador Yehuda Avner, a dear friend of Rabbi Soloveichik
The Solomon Family

Co-sponsor:

Manuel Vazquez-Senior, in honor of the Congregation

Contributors:

Meralee & Sidney Schlusberg

Drs Lu Steinberg & Michael Schulder, in memory of their parents, Lille & Milton
Steinberg and Shirley & Paul Schulder

2023 SPRING FUNDRAISER

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS:

**Seven Iconic Images in the History of Israel,
and the Stories Behind Them**

An Important 7-Part Virtual Series by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Beginning Monday, April 17

Sign-up levels from \$250 to \$18,000

Special Offer for Series Underwriters (\$3,600 and up):

*Don't worry about missing a livestream; a recording of the lectures will be made
available to you.*

*All sponsors will be recognized in a beautiful content-rich
commemorative booklet that will be mailed out after the series.*

Sign up at shearithisrael.org/giving/SpringFundraiser2023

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our tent has returned! We welcome our congregation to enjoy Paved Paradise in the warm weather under the shady protection of our pavilion.

Thank you to Mayor Eric Adams and the NYPD for hosting the NY Jewish community at a Pre-Pesah Security Briefing yesterday, that was attended by Deputy Executive Director, Bonnie Barest. And more importantly, thank you NYPD for your commitment to fighting anti-semitism and taking extra measures to ensure a safe Passover for the Jewish community.

Review of Annual Electors Meeting

Congratulations to **Rabbi Soloveichik**, **Rabbi Rohde**, and **Rev. Edinger** upon being re-elected to their constitutional positions of *Hazzan*, *Shobet*, and *Shamash*, respectively.

Congratulations, also, to our newly voted-in electors:

Meryl Jaffe & Adam Hurwich
Rushie & Philip Bieler

PESAH 5783

Wednesday evening, April 5-Thursday, April 13

Visit shearithisrael.org/pesah5783 for all our Pesah offerings

Passover Preparations

Search for Leaven – Tuesday Evening, April 4

At night on Tuesday | after sunset, 7:24 pm

Fast of First Born – Wednesday, April 5

Fast begins (Dawn) | 5:16 am

Shahrit & *siyyum* for the First Born | 7:05 am

Stop eating *hametz* | by 10:51 am

Dispose of any remaining *hametz* | by 11:55 am

Erub Tabshilin Preparation* | by sunset 7:25 pm

***Erub Tabshilin:** When the festival begins on Wednesday evening, the Erub in the form of some matzah and food prepared for the following Sabbath is set aside prior to the festival before sunset. See

Prayers for the Festivals, by David de Sola Pool, p. 1.

FIRST TWO DAYS OF YOM TOB PESAH

First Day of Passover – Wednesday evening, April 5

Candle Lighting | 7:07 pm

Evening Services (Minha & Arbit) | 7:00 pm

Begin the First Haggadah | after 7:48 pm

Pesah I – Thursday, April 6

Zemiroth | 8:15 am / Shahrit | 9:00 am

Tikkun HaTal | inserted in Musaf 10:30 am

Sermon & Service Conclusion | following Musaf

Men's Reading of **Shir HaShirim** | 6:45 pm

Evening Services (Minha & Arbit) | 7:00 pm

Day 1 Ends & **Omer Counting** | after 7:50 pm

Candles & Second Haggadah | after 7:50 pm

Pesah II – Friday, April 7

Zemiroth | 8:15 am / Shahrit, Hallel, Sermon, Musaf | 9:00-11:50 am

SHABBAT HOL HAMOED PESAH

Friday, April 7

Men's Reading of **Shir HaShirim** | 6:45 pm

Evening Services (Minha & Arbit) | 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting | 7:09 pm

Shabbat Day – Saturday, April 8

Zemiroth | 8:15 am / Shahrit, Hallel, Sermon, Musaf | 9:00-11:30 am

Minha & Arbit | 7:15 pm

Habdala | 8:05 pm