

DEBAR TORAH by RABBI ROHDE

Worship & Israel: Eternally Intertwined

1 Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting, saying, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When any of you brings an offering to the LORD, you may bring as your offering an animal from the herd or the flock (Lev. 1: 1-2)

I continue to discuss these sections of Leviticus in the context of my comments last week that at the end of the Book of Exodus the Tabernacle and its Service seem fully complete and functioning, and Aaron and his sons seem to have been inaugurated and are fully functioning in that Tabernacle. Indeed, in Exodus 29, the whole process of inaugurating the Priests was fully described, and it was carried out in Ex. 40:12. The regular sacrifices described in Ex. 29:38-42 are confirmed to have been started and regularly offered according to Ex.40:29. Thus the beginning of the Book of Leviticus, although it follows the Book of Exodus in the Torah's order, seems rehashing material already covered at the end of Exodus. Perhaps it could be postulated that Leviticus just narrates the selfsame things from a more comprehensive Priestly Law perspective, teaching details for Priests when carrying out their duties.

And yet, as I wrote last week, details don't match up: Most notably, the death of Nadab and Abihu later on in Leviticus is completely absent in Exodus. Also, Leviticus begins with an inventory of the different types of sacrifices, which would seem to be necessary to have before starting sacrificial worship. And yet if this listing was given before the sacrifices had started, how could Moses speak with God in the Tabernacle's Tent of Meeting when the Tabernacle was not yet functioning? Further, in the coming Parashiyot, when the Inauguration is narrated in Leviticus, the Priests are brought to the Tabernacle to inaugurate them. But if you need Priests to consecrate the Tabernacle, then before the Priests were consecrated the Tabernacle could not really be functioning (perhaps Moses himself could have served as High Priest at the beginning, which he does somewhat, but that's not all that clear)!

We're caught, it seems, in a "chicken and egg - which came first" loop. We need to Consecrate and Instruct the Priests first in order to inaugurate the Tabernacle and make it functional. And yet we need a functioning Tabernacle first in which to instruct and consecrate the Priests! Indeed, the Priests probably needed two inauguration ceremonies, much like the way Shearith Israel inaugurates its rabbi: There is a training and inauguration when he first gets the job and learns to successfully perform his first services, followed by a much more formal "Inauguration" ceremony at least a year later! The truth is that many jobs require a match with the "perfect" person," one with whom their job-role and personality is so entwined that it is impossible to conceive of that job-role existing without them or their existence without being entirely meant from the very first for that role. Israel, the Kohanim and Service of the Sanctuary are similarly entwined, such that, in a sense, it was inconceivable to have had Israel and its Priests without a Sanctuary, inconceivable to have imagined a time when some type of Divine Service wasn't regularly offered, and it was inconceivable to have had a Sanctuary and a Service without Priests to conduct it. The instructions given in Leviticus detail how to better or more properly carry out the Priestly functions, but they are not "beginners" instructions (for one thing, their intricacies seems to assume some prior degree of familiarity!), for a time when Israel and Divine Worship weren't intertwined was inconceivable. And indeed, the same thing is true for much of Israel and the Torah: It is inconceivable that much of the Torah's law ever didn't apply. After all, the World Stands upon the Torah and upon Divine Worship, along with Acts of Lovingkindness, and it is inconceivable that the World could have ever stood without all three of these pillars. This is the deeper implication of the rabbinic dictum that the Torah's narratives cannot be considered as temporally sequential ("There is no earlier nor later in the Torah"): The Torah, Worship, and Kindness and Charity among the People are Eternally Intertwined; and it is inconceivable that either could exist without the others.



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Vayikra-Zachor & Purim 5784

March 22-24, 2024 | 13-14 Adar II, 5784

SHABBAT SCHEDULE - SEE PURIM SCHEDULE INSIDE

Kaplan: p. 498 | Haftarah: p. 1274 | Zachor: p. 988

Hertz: p. 409 | Haftarah: p. 995 | Zachor: p. 856

Candle Lighting | 6:53 pm

Evening Services | 6:45 pm

Friday Night Lights | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Zemirot | 8:10 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Morning Talk | At Morning Services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Youth Groups | 10:00 am | **Levy Auditorium**

Jr. Congregation | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

Kiddush | following services | *Sponsored by the Beispiel family, in honor of Paul's 95th birthday*

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 6:10 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik | Main Sanctuary

Teen Shiur | 6:10 pm | Baruch-Lev Kelman | **Levy Auditorium**

Minha | 6:55 pm

Habdala | 7:47 pm

Join us on Shabbat Zachor to fulfill the Torah's command: "**Remember what Amalek did to you...do not forget!**" We also recite the fantastic poem *Mi Kamokha* by Yehuda haLevy, in which he re-tells the story of Esther using biblical verses and allusions from all over the entire Bible.

Weekday Service Times

Monday-Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

Sunday-Thursday Evenings (Minha & Arbit): 6:30 pm

PURIM AT SHEARITH ISRAEL

Saturday Night, March 23-Sunday, March 24

Megillah Readings

Saturday Night Main Reading | **8:15 pm**

Saturday Night Late Reading | **9:00 pm**

Main Morning Reading | **8:30 am**

Women's Morning Reading | **8:30 am**

Late Morning Reading | **11:00 am**

A Purim Celebration Like No Other!

Portuguese Pirate Purim Parley with Baruch-Lev Kelman

Saturday Night, March 23 | During Megillah Reading

For Kids of All Ages (under 5 must be accompanied by an adult)

Dropoff in Fidanque Youth Room at 8:00 pm | Come in costume!

Join Rabbinic Intern Baruch-Lev for an evening of swashbuckling fun and Purim learning, during the first megillah reading!

Following 8:30 am Megillah Readings

Congregational Purim Breakfast

Sunday, March 24 | Following Megillah Reading | Levy Auditorium

Following the 8:30 am readings of the megillah, all are welcome to join us for a festive Purim Breakfast!

Free; sponsorships welcome at shearithisrael.org/purim5784.

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Young Professionals Purim Brunch

Sunday, March 24 | 9:45 am | For registered guests ages 21-35 | Elias Room

Dive down the rabbit hole this Purim and step into the whimsical wonderland of Alice in Wonderland! Register at shearithisrael.org/events/yp-purim.

Sisterhood Mishloah Manot Pickup

If you chose to receive a Mishloah Manot package, pickup will take place at the synagogue during Purim. You can pick up your package from the table outside the Levy Auditorium.

Note: There will be no package delivery.

PURIM SCHEDULE

Eve of Purim Night, Shabbat, March 23

Arbit | 8:05 pm

Purim Youth Activities | 8:00 pm | Drop-off in Fidanque Youth Room

Megillah Reading | 8:15 pm | Main Sanctuary

Late Megillah Reading | 9:00 pm

Purim Day, Sunday, March 24

Morning Services | 8:05 am

Main Service Megillah | 8:30 am | Main Sanctuary

Women's Service Megillah | 8:30 am | Little Synagogue

Congregational Purim Breakfast | following Megillah | Levy Auditorium |

Sponsored by an anonymous sponsor, Mira Fernandez, the "Kaplowniczes" (Yael & Matthew), and by Arthur and Joel Tenenboltz, in memory of their father, Benjamin Tenenboltz

Young Professionals Purim Brunch | 9:45 am | Elias Room

Late Morning Megillah | 11:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Minha & Arbit | 6:30 pm

2024 YEAR OF HOPE

Year of Hope Capital Campaign

Replacing our Sanctuary Carpet & Other Vital Repairs

Through March 31

Plans are underway to replace the carpet so that our sacred space reflects the reverence it deserves. Join our growing list of donors, and help us reach our goal of 100% participation!

View the list and donate at shearithisrael.org/giving/year-of-hope.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy 95th Birthday, **Paul Beispiel**!

Mazal tob to **Samuel & Elizabeth Neumark**, upon the birth of a baby girl, Alaia Deborah (Devorah Aliyah). Congratulations as well to the grandparents, **Susan & Avery Neumark**, great grandfather, **Melvin Neumark**, uncle and aunt **Rachel Neumark Herlands & Jonathan Herlands**, and the entire Neumark family.

Condolences to **Mayer (& Denise) Smouha**, upon the passing of Mayer's sister, Yvonne Smouha Anaf.