

עץ חיים

ETZ HAYIM

TORAH AND COMMENTARY

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



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6 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Command Aaron and his sons thus:

This is the ritual of the burnt offering: The burnt offering itself shall remain where it is burned upon the altar all night until morning, while the fire on the altar is kept going on it.

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ²צַו
אֶת-אַהֲרֹן וְאֶת-בָּנָיו לֵאמֹר
זֹאת תֹּרַת הָעֹלָה הִוא הָעֹלָה עַל-
מוֹקְדָה * עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ כָּל-הַלַּיְלָה עַד-

v. 2. מ' זעירא לפי נוסחים מקובלים

THE PRINCIPAL TYPES OF SACRIFICE (continued)

THE DISPOSITION OF SACRIFICES (6:1–7:38)

The rituals for each of the various sacrifices outlined in chapters 1–5 are presented in chapters 6 and 7. These chapters also offer us a unique glimpse into the participation of the priesthood in the sacred meals within the precincts of the sanctuary.

The important Hebrew word *torah*, which appears in these chapters, derives from the verb ירה, “to cast, shoot”—an arrow, for instance. The verb, in one of its forms, means “to aim, direct toward”—hence “to show the way, instruct.” The word *torah* here is limited to the content of the instruction.

THE BURNT OFFERING (*olah*) (vv. 1–6)

For the preparation and presentation of this offering, see Lev. 1.

2. where it is burned On top of the altar grill, where the firewood was placed.

all night until morning The daily burnt offering consisted of two yearling lambs, one offered in the morning and one in the evening. The morning burnt offering, with its accompanying grain offering and libation, were the first offerings placed on the altar of burnt offerings each day. The evening burnt offering and its accompaniments were the final offerings each day. The evening offering was left burning on the altar during the night. First thing in the morning, the ashes of the previous day’s sacrifices were removed and new firewood was added. Although the same altar was used for other sacrifices during the day, it was logical to provide instructions for tending the altar at this point, because public worship began and concluded each day with the burnt offering.

In this *parashah*, we can see why the book is thought to be a manual for *kohanim*. How the *kohen* carries out his part of the sacrificial service is the focus of most of the text.

Neḥama Leibowitz suggests that chapters 1–5 are addressed to the Israelite public. Therefore, they begin with voluntary offerings (*olah*, *minḥah*, and *sh’lamim*) and continue with those that apply only to certain individuals in certain circumstances (e.g., the purification offering of the *kohen*). Chapters 6–7 are directed to the officiating priests. For that reason, the sequence of offerings is changed, beginning with the offerings that have the highest degree of sanctity (“most holy”) and continuing with those of a lesser level of sanctity.

CHAPTER 6

2. Command Aaron . . . This is the ritual of the burnt offering The Talmud reads the He-

brew word *torat* (“ritual of”) as “Torah for”: “In our day, the study of Torah takes the place of bringing animal offerings” (BT Men. 110a). If so, then why command Aaron? Because Aaron might be reluctant to tell the people that the study of Torah is equivalent to bringing sacrifices. That would make the role of the *kohanim* less prominent, as it would present the people with an alternative form of worship (Hatam Sofer).

the fire on the altar is kept going on it The last Hebrew word can also be read “within him” (instead of “on it”). This prompted the comment that the fire on the altar must be paralleled by a fire in the heart of the officiating priest, whose enthusiasm for the sacred nature of the work must never be lost. The congregation, for its part, must recognize its responsibility to see that the enthusiasm and dedication of the clergy are never extinguished.

³The priest shall dress in linen raiment, with linen breeches next to his body; and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has reduced the burnt offering on the altar and place them beside the altar. ⁴He shall then take off his vestments and put on other vestments, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a pure place. ⁵The fire on the altar shall be kept burning, not to go out: every morning the priest shall feed wood to it, lay out the burnt offering on it, and turn into smoke the fat parts of the offerings of well-being. ⁶A perpetual fire shall be kept burning on the altar, not to go out.

⁷And this is the ritual of the grain offering: Aaron's sons shall present it before the LORD, in front of the altar. ⁸A handful of the choice flour and oil of the grain offering shall be taken from it, with all the frankincense that is on the grain offering, and this token portion shall be turned into smoke on the altar as a pleasing odor to the LORD. ⁹What is left of it shall be eaten by Aaron and his sons; it shall be eaten as unleavened cakes, in the sacred precinct; they shall eat it in the enclosure of the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁰It shall not be baked with leaven; I have given it as their portion from My gifts; it is most holy,

4. take off his vestments The priestly vestments were to be worn only in the sanctuary precincts (Exod. 28:43).

outside the camp to a pure place Called "the ash heap" in 4:12. The spot near the eastern side of the altar where the ashes were dumped is called "the place for the ashes" in 1:16.

6. perpetual fire . . . on the altar, not to go out The requirement to keep the fire burning at all times is also implied in verse 2. Perpetual fire expressed the Israelites' devotion to God by showing that they were attendant on Him at all times in the sanctuary.

3. The first act of the *kohen* every morning is to put on ordinary clothes and remove the ashes of the previous night's sacrifice. This ensures that he never forgets his link to the ordinary people who spend their days

הַבֶּקֶר וְאֵשׁ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תִּזְכָּר בּוֹ: ³ וְלִבְשׁ
הַבְּהֵן מִדּוֹ בָד וּמִכְנָסֵי־בָד יִלְבַּשׁ עַל־
בְּשָׂרוֹ וְהָרִים אֶת־הַדָּשָׁן אֲשֶׁר תֹּאכַל
הָאֵשׁ אֶת־הָעֵלָה עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְשָׂמוּ אֶצֶל
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ: ⁴ וּפָשַׁט אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וְלִבַּשׁ בְּגָדִים
אַחֲרִים וְהוֹצִיא אֶת־הַדָּשָׁן אֶל־מַחוּץ
לַמַּחֲנֶה אֶל־מְקוֹם טָהוֹר: ⁵ וְהָאֵשׁ עַל־
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תִּזְכָּר־בּוֹ לֹא תִכָּבֵה וּבַעַר עָלֶיהָ
הַפְּהֵן עֵצִים בְּבֶקֶר בְּבֶקֶר וְעֶרְבָה עָלֶיהָ
הָעֵלָה וְהִקְטִיר עָלֶיהָ חֲלָבֵי הַשְּׁלָמִים:
⁶ אֵשׁ תָּמִיד תִּזְכָּר עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לֹא
תִכָּבֵה: ט

⁷ וְזֹאת תֹּרַת הַמִּנְחָה הַקָּרֵב אֹתָהּ בְּנֵי־
אַהֲרֹן לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֶל־פְּנֵי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:
⁸ וְהָרִים מִמֶּנּוּ* בְּקִמְצוֹ מִסֹּלֶת הַמִּנְחָה
וּמִשְׁמְנָהּ וְאֵת כָּל־הַלֶּבֶנָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־
הַמִּנְחָה וְהִקְטִיר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ רִיחַ נִיחֹחַ
אֶזְרָתָהּ לִיהוָה: ⁹ וְהִנּוּחַתָּה מִמֶּנּוּ
יֹאכְלוּ אֹהֲרֹן וּבָנָיו מִצֹּת תֹּאכַל בְּמְקוֹם
קֹדֶשׁ בַּחֲצַר אֹהֶל־מוֹעֵד יֹאכְלוּהָ: ¹⁰ לֹא
תֹאפֶה חֶמֶץ חֶלֶקֶם נָתַתִּי אֹתָהּ מֵאֲשֵׁי

v. 8. סבירין ומטעין "ממנה"

THE GRAIN OFFERING (*minḥab*)

(vv. 7–11)

For the preparation and presentation of this offering, see Lev. 2.

9. eaten by Aaron and his sons An important element not stressed in chapter 2: Participation of the priests is indispensable to the efficacy of this ritual.

enclosure of the Tent of Meeting The tabernacle had an enclosed courtyard (e.g., see Exod. 27:9–19, 35:17), an arrangement later duplicated at the temple in Jerusalem. This sacred area, here and in verse 19, is called "courtyard" (*hatzer*); usu-

in mundane pursuits (*Simḥah Bunem*). Why were the ashes treated with such reverence? It symbolizes the idea that what was holy yesterday must be treated with respect today as well.

like the purification offering and the reparation offering. ¹¹Only the males among Aaron's descendants may eat of it, as their due for all time throughout the ages from the LORD's gifts. Anything that touches these shall become holy.

¹²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ¹³This is the offering that Aaron and his sons shall offer to the LORD on the occasion of his anointment: a tenth of an *ephah* of choice flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening, ¹⁴shall be prepared with oil on a griddle. You shall bring it well soaked, and offer it as a grain offering of baked slices, of pleasing odor to the LORD. ¹⁵And so shall the priest, anointed from among his sons to succeed him, prepare it; it is the LORD's—a law for all time—to be turned entirely into smoke. ¹⁶So, too, every grain offering of a priest shall be a whole offering: it shall not be eaten.

קֹדֶשׁ קְדָשִׁים הוּא פְּחֻטָּאת וְכֹאֲשֵׁם: ¹¹ כָּל־זָכָר בְּבִנְי אַהֲרֹן יֹאכְלֶנָה חֶק־עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם מֵאֲשֵׁי יְהוָה כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־יִגַע בָּהֶם יִקְדָּשׁ: פ

שְׁנֵי ¹² וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ¹³ זֶה קָרְבַּן אַהֲרֹן וּבָנָיו אֲשֶׁר־יִקְרִיבוּ לַיהוָה בְּיוֹם הַמִּשְׁחָ אֹתוֹ עֲשִׂירֵת הָאֶפֶה סֵלֶת מִנַּחֵה תָמִיד מִחֻצֵיתָהּ בַּבֶּקֶר וּמִחֻצֵיתָהּ בָּעֶרֶב: ¹⁴ עַל־מַחְבֵּת בִּשְׂמֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה מְרֻבֶּכֶת תְּבִיאֶנָה תְּפִינִי מִנַּחֵת פְּתִיִם תִּקְרִיב רִיח־נִיחֹח לַיהוָה: ¹⁵ וְהִכֹּהֵן הַמֹּשִׁיחַ תַּחֲתָיו מִבָּנָיו יַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַחֶק־עוֹלָם לַיהוָה כָּל־יֵל תִּקְטֹר: ¹⁶ וְכָל־מִנַּחֵת כֹּהֵן כָּל־יֵל תִּהְיֶה לֹא תֹאכַל: פ

ally it is referred to as “the entrance of the Tent of Meeting” (*petah ohel mo-ed*), which included a large part of the courtyard.

11. Only the males among Aaron's descendants Any foods brought for sacrifices could be eaten only by the priests themselves. Other food-stuffs collected for their support and other forms of priestly revenue could be used to feed their families.

due Hebrew: *hok* (fem. *hukkah*), which signifies a law ordained by written statute. By extension, it connotes one's lawful share or amount, a rightful due.

Anything that touches these shall become holy The condition of holiness, unlike that of impurity, was not regarded as contagious. Thus it would be better to translate: “Anyone who is to touch these must be in a holy state.” Only consecrated persons may have contact with sacrificial materials. This notion reinforces the opening of the verse: Only Aaronide priests may partake of the sacrifices. An act of consecration is required.

12. ephah See Comment to Exod. 16:36.

THE GRAIN OFFERING OF THE
HIGH PRIEST (vv. 12–16)

13. offering Hebrew: *korban*; see *D'rash* to 1:2.

on the occasion of his anointment The rite of anointing (unction), described in 8:10ff., was essential to the status of the High Priest. The altar, too, was anointed.

regular Hebrew: *tamid*, used for the most part to characterize regular daily offerings.

16. every grain offering of a priest Every offering of grain brought by a priest on his own behalf, or on behalf of the priesthood, in expiation or as a voluntary offering, was to be burned entirely on the altar. This affirms the rule that priests could benefit only for services undertaken on behalf of other Israelites, not on their own behalf. When the offering served only the priests themselves, the usual share of the priests had to be surrendered to God.

10. The purification offerings and the reparation offerings are called “most holy.” A greater degree of holiness is ascribed to the person who has struggled with sin and overcome it than to the person who never has been tempted.

11. only the males Most Conservative synagogues have extended the honor and respon-

sibility of serving as religious officiants, rabbis, and cantors, to women as well.

13. as a regular grain offering The daily grain offering of the High Priest taught the poor not to be ashamed of their grain offering, which was the same size. It also taught the High Priest humility (Abravanel).

¹⁷The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ¹⁸Speak to Aaron and his sons thus: This is the ritual of the purification offering: the purification offering shall be slaughtered before the LORD, at the spot where the burnt offering is slaughtered: it is most holy. ¹⁹The priest who offers it as a purification offering shall eat of it; it shall be eaten in the sacred precinct, in the enclosure of the Tent of Meeting. ²⁰Anything that touches its flesh shall become holy; and if any of its blood is spattered upon a garment, you shall wash the bespattered part in the sacred precinct. ²¹An earthen vessel in which it was boiled shall be broken; if it was boiled in a copper vessel, [the vessel] shall be scoured and rinsed with water. ²²Only the males in the priestly line may eat of it: it is most holy. ²³But no purification offering may be eaten from which any blood is brought into the Tent of Meeting for expiation in the sanctuary; any such shall be consumed in fire.

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ¹⁸ דַּבֵּר אֶל־אַהֲרֹן וְאֶל־בָּנָיו לֵאמֹר זֹאת תּוֹרַת הַחֲטָאת בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁחַט הָעֹלָה תִשְׁחַט הַחֲטָאת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה קֹדֶשׁ קֹדָשִׁים הוּא: ¹⁹ הַכֹּהֵן הַמַּחֲטֵא אֹתָהּ יֹאכְלֶנָּה בְּמָקוֹם קֹדֶשׁ תֹּאכַל בַּחֲצֵר אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד: ²⁰ כָּל אֲשֶׁר־יִגַע בַּבְּשָׂרָה יִקְדָּשׁ וְאֲשֶׁר יִזֶּה מִדָּמָה עַל־הַבְּגָד אֲשֶׁר יִזֶּה עָלֶיהָ תִכַּבֵּס בְּמָקוֹם קֹדֶשׁ: ²¹ וְכִלִּי־חָרָשׁ אֲשֶׁר תִּבְשַׁל־בּוֹ יִשָּׁבֵר וְאִם־בְּכִלֵי נְחֹשֶׁת בִּשְׂלָה וּמִרְקָ וְשִׁטָּף בַּמַּיִם: ²² כָּל־זָכָר בְּכַהֲנַיִם יֹאכַל אֹתָהּ קֹדֶשׁ קֹדָשִׁים הוּא: ²³ וְכֹל־חֲטָאת אֲשֶׁר יוּבָא מִדָּמָה אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לְכַפֵּר בַּקֹּדֶשׁ לֹא תֹאכַל בָּאֵשׁ תִּשְׂרָף: פ

7 This is the ritual of the reparation offering: it is most holy. ²The reparation offering shall

וְזֹאת תּוֹרַת הָאֲשָׁם קֹדֶשׁ קֹדָשִׁים הוּא: ² בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁחַטוּ אֶת־הָעֹלָה יִשְׁחַטּוּ

THE PURIFICATION OFFERING
(*battat*) (6:17–23)

18. The burnt offering (*olah*) was to be slaughtered at the northern side of the altar (1:11). Here we are informed that this rule also applies to the purification offering.

most holy The purification offering is in the category of offerings that are “most sacred” (*kodesh kodashim*). This category, first encountered in 2:3, is mentioned in 6:10; it recurs in 6:22 and in 7:6.

19. enclosure of the Tent of Meeting The entire courtyard is sacred. See Comment to 6:9.

20. Anything that touches its flesh shall become holy Rather, anyone who is to touch its flesh must be in a holy state. See Comment to 6:11.

blood . . . spattered upon a garment Part of the blood of the purification offering was to be placed on the horns of the altar and the rest poured down its side, as ordained in 4:25. Should any sacrificial blood stain a garment, that garment must be laundered, because it would be improper for any of this blood to be used for anything other than its ordained purpose.

21. An earthen vessel in which it was boiled shall be broken

Earthenware, being more porous than metal, absorbs particles of the flesh boiled in it. Some of the sacrificial flesh very likely would remain in the vessel. Such flesh would constitute “leftovers of the sacrifice” (*notar*), forbidden for consumption according to 7:15–17. If other foodstuffs were subsequently boiled in the same vessel, the forbidden sacrificial particles would contaminate the rest. To prevent this, the earthenware vessel had to be broken, because there was no possible way to purify it.

23. This rule refers to the priestly *hattat* as set forth in 4:1–12, to the rites prescribed in 8:17 for the investiture of the priests, and to the *Yom Kippur* ritual in chapter 16.

THE REPARATION OFFERING (*asham*) (7:1–10)

1. ritual of the reparation offering The procedures specified in verses 1–6 for the “reparation offering” (*asham*) correspond to those already mandated for the purification offering in 6:17.

be slaughtered at the spot where the burnt offering is slaughtered, and the blood shall be dashed on all sides of the altar. ³All its fat shall be offered: the broad tail; the fat that covers the entrails; ⁴the two kidneys and the fat that is on them at the loins; and the protuberance on the liver, which shall be removed with the kidneys. ⁵The priest shall turn them into smoke on the altar as a gift to the LORD; it is a reparation offering. ⁶Only the males in the priestly line may eat of it; it shall be eaten in the sacred precinct: it is most holy.

⁷The reparation offering is like the purification offering. The same rule applies to both: it shall belong to the priest who makes expiation thereby. ⁸So, too, the priest who offers a man's burnt offering shall keep the skin of the burnt offering that he offered. ⁹Further, any grain offering that is baked in an oven, and any that is prepared in a pan or on a griddle, shall belong to the priest who offers it. ¹⁰But every other grain offering, with oil mixed in or dry, shall go to the sons of Aaron all alike.

¹¹This is the ritual of the sacrifice of well-being that one may offer to the LORD:

¹²If he offers it for thanksgiving, he shall offer together with the sacrifice of thanksgiving un-

אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־דָּמוֹ יִזְרַק עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב: ³ וְאֵת כָּל־חֲלָבֹו יִקְרִיב מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת הָאֵלֶיָּהּ וְאֶת־הַחֶלֶב הַמְכַסֶּה אֶת־הַקָּרֶב: ⁴ וְאֵת שְׁתֵּי הַכְּלָיִת וְאֶת־הַחֶלֶב אֲשֶׁר עֲלֵיהֶן אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַכְּסָלִים וְאֶת־הַיִּתְרֹת עַל־הַכֶּבֶד עַל־הַכְּלָיִת יִסְרֹנָה: ⁵ וְהִקְטִיר אֹתָם הַכֹּהֵן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲשֶׁה לַיהוָה אֲשֶׁם הוּא: ⁶ כָּל־זָכָר בְּכֹהֲנִים יֹאכְלֵנּוּ בְּמִקְוֹם קָדוֹשׁ יֹאכֵל קָדֹשׁ קִדְשִׁים הוּא:

⁷ כַּחֲטָאת כָּאֲשֶׁם תּוֹרָה אַחַת לָהֶם הַכֹּהֵן אֲשֶׁר יִכְפָּרֵבֹו לוֹ יִהְיֶה: ⁸ וְהַכֹּהֵן הַמְקַרֵּיב אֶת־עֹלֹת אִישׁ עֹר הָעֹלָה אֲשֶׁר הַקָּרִיב לַכֹּהֵן לוֹ יִהְיֶה: ⁹ וְכָל־מִנְחָה אֲשֶׁר תֵּאָפֶה בַּתֹּנֹר וְכָל־נִעְשָׂה בַּמְרַחֶשֶׁת וְעַל־מִחְבַּת לַכֹּהֵן הַמְקַרֵּיב אֹתָהּ לוֹ תִּהְיֶה: ¹⁰ וְכָל־מִנְחָה בְּלוּלָה־בְּשֶׁמֶן וְחֲרֵבָה לְכָל־בְּנֵי אַהֲרֹן תִּהְיֶה אִישׁ כְּאָחִיו: ^פ

וְזֹאת תּוֹרַת זֶבַח הַשְּׁלָמִים אֲשֶׁר יִקְרִיב לַיהוָה: ¹¹ וְזֹאת תּוֹרַת זֶבַח הַשְּׁלָמִים אֲשֶׁר יִקְרִיב לַיהוָה: ¹² אִם עַל־תּוֹדָה יִקְרִיבֶנּוּ וְהַקָּרִיב אֶל־זֶבַח הַתּוֹדָה חֲלוֹת מִצּוֹת בְּלוּלֹת בְּשֶׁמֶן

7. it shall belong to the priest who makes expiation thereby Sacrifices of expiation eaten by the priests are actually their property.

8. The officiating priest, in most cases, could keep the hide as his own and profit from its value.

9–10. Verse 9 speaks of offerings prepared in an oven, in a pan, or on a griddle, all of which belong to the officiating priest. Verse 10 speaks of other offerings that belong to all priests. These verses are saying, in effect, that the parts of the grain offerings due to the priests are to go to the officiants at these rites.

THE SACRIFICE OF WELL-BEING
(*zevah ha-sh'lamim*) (vv. 11–34)

11. As in chapter 3, this section uses the term *sh'lamim* in a general sense, referring to all sacrifices of the *zevah* type.

12. for thanksgiving For expressing one's gratitude to God for deliverance from danger or misfortune.

sacrifice of thanksgiving Hebrew: *zevah todah*, which refers here to the animal sacrifice ordained in chapter 3: a sheep or a goat of either gender. The ritual first considers the preparation

CHAPTER 7

12. An individual brings an offering of thanksgiving (*todah*) in response to having been

spared from disaster, which produces probably one of the most profound emotions that person will ever know. The Talmud (BT Ber. 54b) identifies the circumstances in which a person

leavened cakes with oil mixed in, unleavened wafers spread with oil, and cakes of choice flour with oil mixed in, well soaked. ¹³This offering, with cakes of leavened bread added, he shall offer along with his thanksgiving sacrifice of well-being. ¹⁴Out of this he shall offer one of each kind as a gift to the LORD; it shall go to the priest who dashes the blood of the offering of well-being. ¹⁵And the flesh of his thanksgiving sacrifice of well-being shall be eaten on the day that it is offered; none of it shall be set aside until morning.

¹⁶If, however, the sacrifice he offers is a votive

and disposition of the grain offerings of both unleavened and leavened cakes that accompanied the animal sacrifice, a matter not taken up elsewhere in Leviticus. It then deals with the animal sacrifice itself, the basic information for which is in chapter 3.

13. No leaven may be placed on the altar of burnt offerings (Lev. 2:11). Thus only the unleavened cakes are offered on the altar, not the leavened cakes.

with . . . added . . . along with Hebrew: *al*; literally, “on.” This preposition occurs twice in this verse, where it means “in addition to.”

14. one of each kind as a gift to the LORD Sacrificial procedures in biblical Israel, and in the ancient Near East generally, often dictated that the offering first be presented to the deity for acceptance, at which time it belonged entirely to

וּרְקִיקֵי מִצֹּת מִשְׁחִים בְּשֶׁמֶן וְסֹלֶת
 מְרֻבֶּכֶת חֶלֶת בְּלוּלֹת בְּשֶׁמֶן: ¹³ עַל-חֶלֶת
 לָחֶם חֲמִץ יִקְרִיב קֶרְבָּנוֹ עַל-זֶבַח תּוֹדֹת
 שְׁלָמָיו: ¹⁴ וְהִקְרִיב מִמֶּנּוּ אֶחָד מִכָּל-קֶרְבָּן
 תְּרוּמָה לַיהוָה לַכֹּהֵן הַזֹּרֵק אֶת-יְדָם
 הַשְּׁלָמִים לוֹ יִהְיֶה: ¹⁵ וּבִשְׂרֵר זֶבַח תּוֹדֹת
 שְׁלָמָיו בְּיוֹם קֶרְבָּנוֹ יֹאכַל לְאִי-יְנִיחַ מִמֶּנּוּ
 עַד-בֹּקֶר:

¹⁶ וְאִם-נִדְרָר | אֹו נִדְבָה זֶבַח קֶרְבָּנוֹ בְּיוֹם

that deity. Only then did the deity grant portions of the offering to the priests and, occasionally, to the donors as well. Consequently, even in this case, in which no part of the leavened grain offering was placed on the altar, it could be considered as an offering to the Lord.

15. The flesh must be eaten on the day the altar sacrifice is made. If not consumed then, it must be burned. This is yet another difference between the thanksgiving sacrifice (*todah*) and other *sh'lamim* sacrifices.

16. Except in the case of a thanksgiving offering (*todah*), the flesh of *sh'lamim* sacrifices may be eaten until the third day, a rule also stated in 19:5–8. There were no restrictions regarding where the donor of a *sh'lamim* could eat his or her portion of the offering, so long as no person in an impure state partook of the flesh (v. 19).

should bring a *todah*: when one has safely completed a dangerous journey, recovered from illness, been released from confinement, or survived other dangers. The custom continues to this day in the *Gomel* blessing offered in the synagogue, during the Torah reading, by a worshiper who has avoided or survived misfortune. The talmudic text states that people “need” (*tzrikhin*) to bring a *todah* rather than “are obliged” to bring one, perhaps to suggest that the grateful individual brings the *todah* to fulfill a psychological need rather than to meet a religious obligation.

15. Several commentators connect the requirement that the *todah* be eaten on the day it is offered and on the following evening to the fact that it is brought in response to a

miracle in the life of the donor. Abravanel says that if it must be consumed in a single day, the owner will invite more people to share it, thus publicizing the miracle more widely. “On being asked what prompted this feast, the host will recount some good fortune and the divine wonder it represents.” We should have confidence that each new day will produce its own miracle. Therefore, the feast celebrating a miraculous event should be confined to one day and not extended into the next. Tomorrow will bring its own miracle (Yitzhak Meir Alter of Ger). “In time to come, there will be no sacrifices except for the offering of thanksgiving, and there will be no prayers except for prayers of thanksgiving” (Lev. R. 9:7).

or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he offers his sacrifice, and what is left of it shall be eaten on the morrow. ¹⁷What is then left of the flesh of the sacrifice shall be consumed in fire on the third day. ¹⁸If any of the flesh of his sacrifice of well-being is eaten on the third day, it shall not be acceptable; it shall not count for him who offered it. It is an offensive thing, and the person who eats of it shall bear his guilt.

¹⁹Flesh that touches anything impure shall not be eaten; it shall be consumed in fire. As for other flesh, only he who is pure may eat such flesh. ²⁰But the person who, in a state of impurity, eats flesh from the LORD's sacrifices of well-being, that person shall be cut off from his kin. ²¹When a person touches anything impure, be it human impurity or an impure animal or any impure creature, and eats flesh from the LORD's sacrifices of well-being, that person shall be cut off from his kin.

²²And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to the Israelite people thus: You shall eat no fat of ox or sheep or goat. ²⁴Fat from animals that died or were torn by beasts may be put to any use, but you must not eat it. ²⁵If anyone eats the fat of animals from which gifts may be made to the LORD, the person who eats

הַקָּרִיבוֹ אֶת־זִבְחוֹ יֵאָכַל וּמִמֶּחֳרָת
וְהַנּוֹתֵר מִמֶּנּוּ יֵאָכַל: ¹⁷ וְהַנּוֹתֵר מִבֶּשֶׂר
הַזֶּבֶחַ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בָאֵשׁ יִשְׂרָף: ¹⁸ וְאִם
הָאָכַל יֵאָכַל מִבֶּשֶׂר־זֶבֶחַ שְׁלָמִיו בַּיּוֹם
הַשְּׁלִישִׁי לֹא יִרְצֶה הַמִּקְרִיב אֹתוֹ לֹא
יִחָשֵׁב לוֹ פְּגוּל יִהְיֶה וְהִנֵּפֶשׁ הָאֲכָלָת
מִמֶּנּוּ עֲוֹנָה תִּשָּׂא:

¹⁹ וְהַבֶּשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר־יִגַע בְּכֹל־טְמֵא לֹא יֵאָכַל
בָּאֵשׁ יִשְׂרָף וְהַבֶּשֶׂר כָּל־טְהוֹר יֵאָכַל
בֶּשֶׂר: ²⁰ וְהִנֵּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאכַל בְּשֵׂר מִזֶּבֶחַ
הַשְּׁלָמִים אֲשֶׁר לַיהוָה וְטִמְאַתּוֹ עָלָיו
וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא מֵעַמִּיהָ: ²¹ וְנִפְשׁ
כִּי־תִגַע בְּכֹל־טְמֵא בְטִמְאַת אָדָם אוֹ
בְּבִהְמָה טְמֵאָה אוֹ בְּכֹל־שֶׁקֶץ טְמֵא וְאָכַל
מִבֶּשֶׂר־זֶבֶחַ הַשְּׁלָמִים אֲשֶׁר לַיהוָה
וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא מֵעַמִּיהָ: פ

²² וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ²³ דַּבֵּר
אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר כָּל־חֵלֶב שׁוֹר
וְכֶשֶׂב וְעֵז לֹא תֹאכְלוּ: ²⁴ וְחֵלֶב נִבְלָה
וְחֵלֶב טְרֵפָה יַעֲשֶׂה לְכֹל־מְלֹאכָה וְאָכַל
לֹא תֹאכְלוּהוּ: ²⁵ כִּי כָל־אֲכָל חֵלֶב מִן־
הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר יִקְרִיב מִמֶּנָּה אִשָּׁה לַיהוָה

freewill offering Hebrew: *n'davah*, which also serves as a general term for many types of voluntary contributions to the sanctuary. Like the *todah*, it expresses gratitude to God and is often mentioned together with the vow (*neder*).

18. Because the sacrificial meat was left uneaten for an improper length of time, the sacrifice itself was not efficacious. In this verse, the penalty for eating flesh remaining from the *sh'lamim* sacrifice after the third day is stated merely as "bearing one's guilt," whereas in 19:5–8 the same offense brings on the penalty of being cut off from the religious community.

19. Beginning with this verse, the text deals more explicitly with the subject of impurity, a concern particularly relevant to the *sh'lamim*, be-

cause parts of it were handled by ordinary Israelites outside the sanctuary.

23. You shall eat no fat See Comment to 3:3.

24. Fat from animals that died An animal torn by beasts (*t'refah*) and the carcass of a dead animal (*n'velah*) are forbidden in their entirety (Exod. 22:30, Lev. 17:15). Hence, any part of such an animal would also be forbidden. It is likely that this seemingly superfluous rule was included here for emphasis, to reinforce the ban on eating organ fat (*heilev*) (see 3:16).

25. from which gifts may be made This clarifies the provisions of verse 23. The *heilev* of large and small cattle is forbidden, because such animals are of the kind offered as sacrifices.

it shall be cut off from his kin. ²⁶And you must not consume any blood, either of bird or of animal, in any of your settlements. ²⁷Anyone who eats blood shall be cut off from his kin.

²⁸And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁹Speak to the Israelite people thus: The offering to the LORD from a sacrifice of well-being must be presented by him who offers his sacrifice of well-being to the LORD: ³⁰his own hands shall present the LORD's gifts. He shall present the fat with the breast, the breast to be elevated as an elevation offering before the LORD; ³¹the priest shall turn the fat into smoke on the altar, and the breast shall go to Aaron and his sons. ³²And the right thigh from your sacrifices of well-being you shall present to the priest as a gift; ³³he from among Aaron's sons who offers the blood and the fat of the offering of well-being shall get the right thigh as his portion. ³⁴For I have taken the breast of elevation offering and the thigh of gift offering from the Israelites, from their sacrifices of well-being, and given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons as their due from the Israelites for all time.

³⁵Those shall be the perquisites of Aaron and the perquisites of his sons from the LORD's gifts, once they have been inducted to serve the LORD as priests; ³⁶these the LORD commanded to be given them, once they had been anointed, as a due from the Israelites for all time throughout the ages.

29–30. The donor of the *sh'lamim* had to personally participate in the presentation of the offering. Because nonpriests could not actually place sacrifices on the altar—indeed, they were banned from the adjacent area—the rite of “presentation” (*t'nufah*) afforded them some measure of participation in sacrifices of lesser sanctity such as this one.

30. the breast to be elevated as an elevation offering before the LORD The offering was

וּנְכַרְתָּהּ הַנֶּפֶשׁ הָאֲכָלֶת מֵעַמִּיהָ: ²⁶ וְכָל־
דָּם לֹא תֹאכְלוּ בְּכָל מוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם לְעוֹף
וְלַבְּהֵמָה: ²⁷ כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־תֹאכַל כָּל־
דָּם וּנְכַרְתָּהּ הִנֵּפֶשׁ הִהוּא מֵעַמִּיהָ: פ

²⁸ וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ²⁹ דַּבֵּר
אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר הַמִּקְרִיב אֶת־זֶבַח
שְׁלָמָיו לַיהוָה יָבִיא אֶת־קָרְבָּנוֹ לַיהוָה
מִזֶּבַח שְׁלָמָיו: ³⁰ יָדָיו תְּבִיאֶינָה אֶת אֲשֵׁי
יְהוָה אֶת־הַחֶלֶב עַל־הַחֹזֶה יְבִיאֵנוּ אֶת
הַחֹזֶה לַהֲנִיף אֹתוֹ תְּנוּפָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:
³¹ וְהִקְטִיר הַכֹּהֵן אֶת־הַחֶלֶב הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
וְהָיָה הַחֹזֶה לְאֹהֲרָן וּלְבָנָיו: ³² וְאֵת שׁוֹק
הַיָּמִין תִּתְּנוּ תְּרוּמָה לַכֹּהֵן מִזִּבְחֵי
שְׁלָמֵיכֶם: ³³ הַמִּקְרִיב אֶת־דָּם הַשְּׁלָמִים
וְאֶת־הַחֶלֶב מִבְּנֵי אֹהֲרָן לוֹ תִהְיֶה שׁוֹק
הַיָּמִין לְמִנְחָה: ³⁴ כִּי אֶת־חֹזֶה הַתְּנוּפָה
וְאֵת | שׁוֹק הַתְּרוּמָה לְקַחְתִּי מֵאֵת
בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִזִּבְחֵי שְׁלָמֵיהֶם וְאֶתֶּן אֹתָם
לְאֹהֲרָן הַכֹּהֵן וּלְבָנָיו לְחֶק־עוֹלָם מֵאֵת
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

³⁵ וְזֹאת מִשְׁחַת אֹהֲרָן וּמִשְׁחַת בְּנָיו מֵאֲשֵׁי
יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם הַקָּרִיב אֹתָם לְכַהֵן לַיהוָה:
³⁶ אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה לָתֵת לָהֶם בַּיּוֹם מִשְׁחוֹ
אֹתָם מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל חֶקֶת עוֹלָם
לְדוֹרֹתָם:

raised up, in dedication to God. “Elevation offering” here is the designation for *t'nufah*, derived from the verb *benif* (lift, raise).

31. the priest shall turn the fat into smoke The priest was entitled to take the breast and the right thigh of the sacrificial animal only after God's share of the offering (i.e., the fatty portions) had been burned on the altar.

34. the thigh of gift offering See Comment to 7:14.

³⁷Such are the rituals of the burnt offering, the grain offering, the purification offering, the reparation offering, the offering of ordination, and the sacrifice of well-being,³⁸ with which the LORD charged Moses on Mount Sinai, when He commanded that the Israelites present their offerings to the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai.

8 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Take Aaron along with his sons, and the vestments, the anointing oil, the bull of purification offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread; ³and assemble the whole community at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. ⁴Moses did as the LORD commanded him. And when the community was assembled at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, ⁵Moses said to the community, “This is what the LORD has commanded to be done.”

⁶Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water. ⁷He put the

זאת התורה לעלה למנחה ולחטאת ולאשם ולמלוואים ולזבח השלמים: ³⁸ אשר צוה יהוה את-משה בהר סיני ביום צותו את-בני ישראל להקריב את-קרבניהם ליהוה במדבר סיני: פ

ח רביעי וידבר יהוה אל-משה לאמר: ² קח את-אהרן ואת-בניו אתו ואת הבגדים ואת שמן המשחה ואת פר החטאת ואת שני האילים ואת סל המצות: ³ ואת כל-העדה הקהל אל-פתח אהל מועד: ⁴ ויעש משה כאשר צוה יהוה אתו ותקהל העדה אל-פתח אהל מועד: ⁵ ויאמר משה אל-העדה זה הדבר אשר-צוה יהוה לעשות: ⁶ ויקרב משה את-אהרן ואת-בניו וירחץ אתם במים: ⁷ ויתן עליו את-הכהנות

SUMMARY (7:35–38)

37. Such are the rituals All of the rituals set forth in chapters 6–7.

the offering of ordination This probably refers to the grain offering burned on the altar by

the High Priest, prescribed in 6:12–16. The ordination rites are presented in chapters 8–9.

38. This verse asserts that in the wilderness of Sinai, the Israelites already had worshiped God with sacrifices.

THE INITIATION OF FORMAL WORSHIP (8:1–9:24)

Chapters 8 and 9 offer a detailed description of the religious celebrations that mark the beginning of formal worship in ancient Israel. The origin of Israelite worship was of great importance to the priesthood because of the formidable role priests occupied in this area of Israelite life.

CONSECRATION OF PRIESTS AND TABERNACLE (8:1–36)

2. anointing oil See Exod. 30:22–25.

3. assemble the whole community The ac-

tual place of assembly was in the outer section of the courtyard, not directly in front of the tent. Only priests were permitted to advance beyond the altar of burnt offerings, which stood in the courtyard about halfway between the outer gate and the entrance to the tent proper.

6. washed them with water Washing is a universal feature of religious ritual. Beyond the obvious hygienic advantages of water, its use in ritual also serves as symbolic purification.

7. The High Priest wore a total of eight vest-

37. Such are the rituals Hebrew: *zot ha-torah*; Menaḥem Mendel of Kotzk reads “This is the Torah,” and then renders the offerings by their root meanings: “the Torah leads some people to *olah* (rising higher) and

minḥah (generosity), but leads other people to *hattat* and *asham* (feelings of guilt).” The summary list concludes with *sh’lamim*, even as so many Jewish prayers, including the *Amidah*, the priestly benediction, and the *Kaddish*, con-

tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him, girding him with the decorated band with which he tied it to him. ⁸He put the breastpiece on him, and put into the breastpiece the Urim and Thummim. ⁹And he set the headdress on his head; and on the headdress, in front, he put the gold frontlet, the holy diadem—as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the Tabernacle and all that was in it, thus consecrating them. ¹¹He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointing the altar, all its utensils, and the laver with its stand, to consecrate them. ¹²He poured some of the anointing oil upon Aaron’s head and anointed him, to consecrate him. ¹³Moses then brought Aaron’s sons forward, clothed them in tunics, girded them with sashes, and wound turbans upon them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁴He led forward the bull of purification offering. Aaron and his sons laid their hands

וַיַּחְגֹּר אֹתוֹ בְּאַבְנֵיט וַיִּלְבַּשׂ אֹתוֹ אֶת־
הַמַּעֲלִיל וַיִּתֵּן עָלָיו אֶת־הָאֶפֶד וַיַּחְגֹּר אֹתוֹ
בַּחֹשֶׁב הָאֶפֶד וַיִּאָפֶד לוֹ בּוֹ: ⁸*וַיִּשֶׂם עָלָיו
אֶת־הַחֹשֶׁן וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הַחֹשֶׁן אֶת־הָאוּרִים
וְאֶת־הַתְּמִיּוֹם: ⁹וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת־הַמִּצְנֶפֶת עַל־
רֹאשׁוֹ וַיִּשֶׂם עַל־הַמִּצְנֶפֶת אֶל־מֹול פָּנָיו
אֶת צִיץ הַזָּהָב נֹזֵר הַקֹּדֶשׁ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה
יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה:

¹⁰וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־שֶׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה וַיִּמְשַׁח
אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ וַיִּקְדָּשׁ
אֹתָם: ¹¹וַיִּזּוּ מִמֶּנּוּ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ שֶׁבַע
פְּעָמִים וַיִּמְשַׁח אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת־כָּל־
כֵּלָיו וְאֶת־הַכִּיֹּר וְאֶת־כַּנּוֹ לְקִדְשָׁם:
¹²וַיִּצַק מִשֶׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה עַל רֹאשׁ אַהֲרֹן
וַיִּמְשַׁח אֹתוֹ לְקִדְשׁוֹ: ¹³וַיִּקְרַב מֹשֶׁה
אֶת־בְּנֵי אַהֲרֹן וַיִּלְבָּשֶׂם כְּתָנֹת וַיַּחְגֹּר
אֹתָם אַבְנֵיט וַיַּחְבֹּשׁ לָהֶם מִגְבְּעוֹת כַּאֲשֶׁר
צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה:

חמישי ¹⁴ וַיִּגֵּשׁ אֶת פֶּר הַחֹטְאֹת וַיִּסְמְךְ אַהֲרֹן

v. 8. חצי התורה בפסוקים

ments, four of which were unique to him (see Exod. 28 and 39).

8. breastpiece Made of wool and linen, with gold threads woven into the fabric, and 12 gem stones were set into the cloth, with the name of a different tribe of Israel engraved on each stone.

Urim and Thummim These were flat stones used for the casting of lots. The act of casting lots was the only form of divination permitted in ancient Israelite official worship, which normally objected to the use of omens for predicting the future.

9. headdress Ordinary priests wore turbans; only the High Priest wore the royal headdress.

10–12. In these verses we read of two parallel acts: the consecration of Aaron, the High Priest, and the consecration of the altar and the tabernacle with its vessels. Both were accomplished by the same means—anointing with the same oil. In this way Aaron, too, became a sacred vessel.

13. After the sons of Aaron were robed, the sacrifices of ordination commenced.

14. Large cattle were used in purification offerings when the entire community, or the High Priest in particular, were affected.

clude with *shalom* “peace,” the ultimate blessing.

CHAPTER 8

12. anointed him, to consecrate him The verb translated as “anointed” (*va-yimshah*) is related to the noun *mashi-ah* (messiah), which originally meant “anointed one.” It referred to a priest, and later to a king, who

had been consecrated for special responsibility. Throughout the Bible, it refers only to a human priest or king. The prophets’ vision of the Messiah was of a good and benevolent king who would earn peace and prosperity for the people by serving God wholeheartedly (see Isa. 11:1–9). Biblical and Rabbinic Judaism as a rule did not conceive of the Messiah as a superhuman redeemer.

upon the head of the bull of purification offering, ¹⁵and it was slaughtered. Moses took the blood and with his finger put some on each of the horns of the altar, purifying the altar; then he poured out the blood at the base of the altar. Thus he consecrated it in order to make expiation upon it.

¹⁶Moses then took all the fat that was about the entrails, and the protuberance of the liver, and the two kidneys and their fat, and turned them into smoke on the altar. ¹⁷The rest of the bull, its hide, its flesh, and its dung, he put to the fire outside the camp—as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁸Then he brought forward the ram of burnt offering. Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the ram's head, ¹⁹and it was slaughtered. Moses dashed the blood against all sides of the altar. ²⁰The ram was cut up into sections and Moses turned the head, the sections, and the suet into smoke on the altar; ²¹Moses washed the entrails and the legs with water and turned all of the ram into smoke. That was a burnt offering for a pleasing odor, a gift to the LORD—as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²²He brought forward the second ram, the ram of ordination. Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the ram's head, ²³and it was slaughtered. Moses took some of its blood and put it on the ridge of Aaron's right ear, and on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. ²⁴Moses then brought forward the sons of Aaron, and put some of the blood on the ridges of their right ears, and on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their

וּבָנָיו אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־רֹאשׁ פֶּרֶ הַחֹטָאֵת :
 וַיִּשְׁחָט וַיִּקַּח מִשָּׂה אֶת־הַדָּם וַיִּתֵּן
 עַל־קַרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ וַיַּחֲטֵא
 אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת־הַדָּם יִצַק אֶל־יְסוּד
 הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַיִּקְדְּשֵׁהוּ לְכַפֵּר עָלָיו :

וַיִּקַּח אֶת־כָּל־הַחֶלֶב אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַקֶּרֶב
 וְאֵת יִתְרַת הַכֹּבֵד וְאֶת־שְׁתֵי הַכְּלִיֹּת
 וְאֶת־חִלְבֵהֶן וַיִּקְטֹר מִשָּׂה הַמִּזְבֵּחַ :
 וְאֶת־הַפֶּר וְאֶת־עֵרוֹ וְאֶת־בְּשָׂרוֹ וְאֶת־
 פָּרְשׁוֹ שָׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ מִחוּץ לַמַּחֲנֶה כַּאֲשֶׁר
 צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה :

וַיִּקְרָב אֶת אֵיל הָעֹלָה וַיִּסְמְכוּ אֹהֲרֵן
 וּבָנָיו אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־רֹאשׁ הָאֵיל :
 וַיִּשְׁחָט וַיִּזְרַק מִשָּׂה אֶת־הַדָּם עַל־
 הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב :²⁰ וְאֶת־הָאֵיל נָתַח
 לְנִתְחָיו וַיִּקְטֹר מִשָּׂה אֶת־הָרֹאשׁ וְאֶת־
 הַנִּתְחִים וְאֶת־הַפָּדֵר :²¹ וְאֶת־הַקֶּרֶב
 וְאֶת־הַפְּרָעִים רָחַץ בַּמַּיִם וַיִּקְטֹר מִשָּׂה
 אֶת־כָּל־הָאֵיל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ עֲלֵה הוּא לְרִיח־
 נִיחֹחַ אֲשֶׁה הוּא לַיהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה
 אֶת־מֹשֶׁה :

וַיִּקְרָב אֶת־הָאֵיל הַשְּׁנִי אֵיל הַמְּלֹאִים
 וַיִּסְמְכוּ אֹהֲרֵן וּבָנָיו אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־רֹאשׁ
 הָאֵיל :²³ וַיִּשְׁחָט וַיִּקַּח מִשָּׂה מִדָּמֹו וַיִּתֵּן
 עַל־תְּנוּפֶה אֶזְנוֹ־אֹהֲרֵן הַיְּמִנִית וְעַל־בֶּהֶן יְדֹוֹ
 הַיְּמִנִית וְעַל־בֶּהֶן רַגְלוֹ הַיְּמִנִית :²⁴ וַיִּקְרָב
 אֶת־בָּנֵי אֹהֲרֵן וַיִּתֵּן מִשָּׂה מִן־הַדָּם עַל־
 תְּנוּפֶה אֶזְנוֹם הַיְּמִנִית וְעַל־בֶּהֶן יָדָם

15. he consecrated it in order to make expiation upon it Expiatory sacrifices required an altar.

18–21. The function of this sacrifice was to evoke a favorable response from God before making an approach with other sacrifices.

23. blood... Aaron's right ear Dabbing sacrificial blood on certain extremities of the body is essentially a rite of purification. In this manner

Aaron and his sons were purified as they entered into their new status.

24. the rest of the blood Moses dashed against every side of the altar This is similar to what occurred during the covenantal ceremony at Sinai (Exod. 24:6–8). In the ordination of the priests, the sacrificial blood served a dual function. It purified the priests and also bound them in a covenant of service to God in the tabernacle.

right feet; and the rest of the blood Moses dashed against every side of the altar. ²⁵He took the fat—the broad tail, all the fat about the entrails, the protuberance of the liver, and the two kidneys and their fat—and the right thigh. ²⁶From the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD, he took one cake of unleavened bread, one cake of oil bread, and one wafer, and placed them on the fat parts and on the right thigh. ²⁷He placed all these on the palms of Aaron and on the palms of his sons, and elevated them as an elevation offering before the LORD. ²⁸Then Moses took them from their hands and turned them into smoke on the altar with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering for a pleasing odor; it was a gift to the LORD. ²⁹Moses took the breast and elevated it as an elevation offering before the LORD; it was Moses' portion of the ram of ordination—as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰And Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled it upon Aaron and upon his vestments, and also upon his sons and upon their vestments. Thus he consecrated Aaron and his vestments, and also his sons and their vestments.

³¹Moses said to Aaron and his sons: Boil the flesh at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket of ordination—as I commanded: Aaron and his sons shall eat it; ³²and what is left over of the flesh and the bread you shall consume in fire. ³³You shall not go outside the entrance of the Tent of Meeting for seven days, until the

הַיְמָנִית וְעַל-בִּהֶן רִגְלָם הַיְמָנִית וַיִּזְרוּק מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַדָּם עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב: ²⁵ וַיִּקַּח אֶת-הַחֵלֶב וְאֶת-הָאֵלֶיָּהּ וְאֶת-כָּל-הַחֵלֶב אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַקֶּרֶב וְאֵת יִתְרֵת הַכֶּבֶד וְאֶת-שְׁתֵּי הַכְּלָיִת וְאֶת-חֵלְבֵהֶן וְאֵת שׁוֹק הַיְמִינִי: ²⁶ וּמִסֵּל הַמִּצּוֹת אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לָקַח חֶלֶת מִצָּה אַחַת וְחֶלֶת לֶחֶם שֶׁמֶן אַחַת וְרִקִּיק אֶחָד וַיִּשֶׂם עַל-הַחֲלָבִים וְעַל שׁוֹק הַיְמִינִי: ²⁷ וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-הַכֹּל עַל כַּפְּי אַהֲרֹן וְעַל כַּפְּי בָנָיו וַיִּנָּף אֹתָם תְּנוּפָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: ²⁸ וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֹתָם מֵעַל כַּפֵּיהֶם וַיִּקְטֵר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ עַל-הָעֹלָה מִלְּאִים הֵם לְרִיחַ נִיחֹחַ אֲשֶׁה הוּא לַיהוָה: ²⁹ וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַחֹזֶה וַיְנַיֶּפְהוּ תְּנוּפָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה מֵאֵיל הַמִּלְּאִים לְמֹשֶׁה הִיָּה לְמִנְחָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת-מֹשֶׁה:

³⁰ וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה מִשֶּׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה וּמִן-הַדָּם אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַיִּזֶּוּ עַל-אַהֲרֹן עַל-בְּגָדָיו וְעַל-בָּנָיו וְעַל-בְּגָדֵי בָנָיו אֶת-אַהֲרֹן אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וְאֶת-בְּגָדֵי בָנָיו אֹתוֹ:

³¹ וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן וְאֶל-בָּנָיו בְּשֹׁלוֹ אֶת-הַבָּשָׂר פָּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְשֶׁם תֹּאכְלוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת-הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר בַּסֵּל הַמִּלְּאִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי לֵאמֹר אַהֲרֹן וּבָנָיו יֹאכְלֵהוּ: ³² וְהַנּוֹתֵר בַּבָּשָׂר וּבַלֶּחֶם בָּאֵשׁ תִּשְׂרְפוּ: ³³ וּמִפְתַּח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לֹא תֵצְאוּ שְׁבַעַת יָמִים עַד יוֹם מְלֵאת יְמֵי מִלְּאֵיכֶם בִּי

27. all these Included here among the parts of the sacrifice burned on the altar was the thigh, which belonged to the priests (Lev. 7:32). In the rites of ordination, the priests surrendered their own portion to God, because it would have been improper for them to benefit from what was offered on their own behalf. Moses, however, received his portion.

30. A mix of anointing oil and sacrificial blood was sprinkled on Aaron and his sons and on their vestments. This completed their ordination.
31. Moses instructed Aaron and his sons on how to dispose of Moses' own portion of the sacrifice. It was vital to the efficacy of the ordination sacrifice that the priests actually partake of it.
33. The priests were not inside the tent but,

day that your period of ordination is completed. For your ordination will require seven days. ³⁴Everything done today, the LORD has commanded to be done [seven days], to make expiation for you. ³⁵You shall remain at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting day and night for seven days, keeping the LORD's charge—that you may not die—for so I have been commanded.

³⁶And Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded through Moses.

rather, near its entrance, in the inner section of the tabernacle courtyard. They were not to leave this sanctified area for seven days, to avoid contact with anything or anyone impure.

שְׁבַעַת יָמִים יִמְלֵא אֶת־יְדֵכֶם: ³⁴ כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה צִוְּהָ יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיכֶם: ³⁵ וּפְתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד תִּשְׁבּוּ יוֹמָם וּלְיָלֵה שְׁבַעַת יָמִים וּשְׁמֵרְתֶם אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת יְהוָה וְלֹא תָמוּתוּ בִּיכֶן צִוִּיתִי: ³⁶ וַיַּעַשׂ אַהֲרֹן וּבָנָיו אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר־צִוְּהָ יְהוָה בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה: ט

35. the LORD's charge To follow the instructions given on this occasion.

33. seven days These days parallel the seven days of Creation. The existence of the tabernacle and its capacity to atone for human sinfulness and imperfection make it possible for an imperfect world to survive in the sight of a just God. The Midrash emphasizes that "if

God demands absolute justice, there can be no world. If God desires a world, there cannot be absolute justice" (Lev. R. 10:1).

36. As is often true, the *parashah* concludes on a positive note—in this case, by highlighting the priests' faithful obedience to God.

הַפְּטָרָה צו

HAFTARAH FOR TZAV

JEREMIAH 7:21–8:3; 9:22–23

The prophet Jeremiah delivered a Temple sermon (Jer. 7:1–20), in which he announced God’s judgment of doom upon the Temple and upon the nation for the people’s moral sins and for pagan worship. The first part of this *haftarah* follows that sermon as part of a series of prophetic rebukes. The last part of this *haftarah* skips ahead to the end of chapter 9 to conclude the reading on a positive note of religious instruction. The *haftarah* does not fulfill the usual requirement of having at least 21 verses. The Talmud justifies this situation with the laconic comment that the unit is brief because “the topic is concluded” (BT Meg. 23b).

Rhetorical forms of negation and contrast emphasize the theme of proper action that dominates the *haftarah*. Thus, in the opening critique of the nation, God first says “I did not speak with them or command them” concerning sacrifices. This is contrasted with the positive assertion about “what I commanded them” to do (vv. 22–23). In this rebuke, unbidden and excessive offerings are juxtaposed with the command to follow the divine way. Similarly, at a later point, God maligns the people’s idolatrous and heinous acts of child-sacrifice, emphasizing in counterpoint that “I never commanded” such behavior (v. 31). A further example of this structure occurs in the concluding instruction of the *haftarah*. In it the prophet contrasts self-glorification through money and might with acts of kindness and justice. The rhetorical phrasing sharply juxtaposes false and worthless assertions of glory (*al yithallel*) with their positive counterpart (*yithallel*) and teaching (9:22–23). The harsh condemnation of cultic activity found in 7:21–22 goes far beyond the rejection of sacrifices found in 6:19–20. The people are told, in a mocking fashion, to act in a manner that blatantly contradicts the law in the Torah, which states explicitly that the burnt of-

ferings (*olot*) are to be entirely consumed upon the altar (Lev. 1:1–9). Thus it is best to follow those commentators who regard Jeremiah’s words as an altogether ironic “instruction,” implying that the people may as well desecrate the burnt offering (*olah*) for all that it is worth, because God did not command them about burnt offerings or sacrifice during the wilderness sojourn.

This interpretation has evoked consternation and perplexity for generations of interpreters, because Lev. 7:37–38 (at the end of the *parashah*) states explicitly that the cultic instructions were given during the Sinai sojourn.

A solution to the problem posed by this apparent contradiction between Jeremiah and the Torah was proposed by Radak: Only the Decalogue (and not the sacrificial cult) was commanded at Mount Sinai, to teach the nation that the unconditional obligations of morality constitute the cornerstone of the Covenant. In this sense Jeremiah’s words are historically accurate and reinforce a central covenantal concern. In light of the centrality of the Decalogue, the prophet’s point would then be that voluntary (individual) sacrifices offered by people who commit acts of disobedience to the divine are as good as worthless. In fact, he suggests, they are no more efficacious than if they were offered incorrectly.

Strikingly, the final verse of the *haftarah* (9:23) echoes the prophet Hosea’s statement of what God desires (“I desire goodness, not sacrifice; / Obedience to God, rather than burnt offerings,” Hos. 6:6). One can hardly avoid the conclusion that the Sages selected Jeremiah’s teaching in 9:22–23 as a climax to the *haftarah* in light of the earlier *haftarah* verses emphasizing God’s will and the nullity of sacrifices. Indeed, by concluding the *haftarah* on this note, rabbinic tradition provides a strong contrast to the teachings of the *parashah*, and a sharp qualification of its status.

RELATION OF THE *HAFTARAH*
TO THE *PARASHAH*

Both the *parashah* and the *haftarah* refer to the *olah* (burnt offering) and to the *zevah* offering. Jeremiah stresses that the people were “not commanded” to offer sacrifices when they came out of Egypt. By contrast, the priestly rule ends with the specific emphasis that its regulations were “commanded” by God in the wilderness of Sinai (Lev. 7:38).

It may have been just this critique of sacrifices that attracted the Sages to Jeremiah’s word. In the years following the destruction of the Second

Temple (70 C.E.), the prophet’s statement that the Sinaitic covenant did not enjoin sacrifices would assuage Jewish fears that without the cult of ritual sacrifice their relationship with God was permanently impaired. Indeed, responding to just this anxiety, Yohanan ben Zakkai radically reinterpreted Judaism for a later generation when he remarked that acts of loving kindness would effect atonement “just as” the ancient sacrifices did (ARN B 4). Similarly, Jeremiah earlier emphasized that the covenantal virtues of kindness, justice, and equity are the very basis for knowing God, and for imitating His ways. The prophet’s teachings would resonate in subsequent centuries.

7 ²¹Thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat! ²²For when I freed your fathers from the land of Egypt, I did not speak with them or command them concerning burnt offerings or sacrifice. ²³But this is what I commanded them: Do My bidding, that I may be your God and you may be My people; walk only in the way that I enjoin upon you, that it may go well with you. ²⁴Yet they did not listen or give ear; they followed their own counsels, the willfulness of their evil hearts. They have gone backward, not forward, ²⁵from the day your fathers left the land of Egypt until today. And though I kept sending all My servants, the prophets, to them daily and persistently, ²⁶they would not listen to Me or give ear. They stiffened their necks, they acted worse than their fathers.

²⁷You shall say all these things to them, but they will not listen to you; you shall call to

ז ²¹ כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
עֲלוֹתֵיכֶם סָפוּ עַל־זִבְחֵיכֶם וְאָכְלוּ בָשָׂר׃
²² כִּי לֹא־דִבַּרְתִּי אֶת־אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם וְלֹא
צִוִּיתִים בְּיוֹם הוֹצִיא הוֹצִיאִי אוֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם עַל־דְּבַרִּי עוֹלָה וְזֹבַח׃ ²³ כִּי אִם־
אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה צִוִּיתִי אוֹתָם לֵאמֹר
שָׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי וְהִיִּיתִי לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים וְאַתֶּם
תְּהִיּוּ־לִי לְעָם וְהִלַּכְתֶּם בְּכָל־הַדְּרָךְ
אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶה אֶתְכֶם לִמְעַן יִיטֵב לָכֶם׃
²⁴ וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ וְלֹא־הִטּוּ אֶת־אָזְנָם וַיִּלְכּוּ
בְּמַעֲצוֹת בְּשָׁרֹוֹת לִבָּם הָרַע וַיְהִיּוּ
לְאַחֹר וְלֹא לְפָנַי׃ ²⁵ לְמִן־הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר
יֵצְאוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד הַיּוֹם
הַזֶּה וְאֲשַׁלַּח אֲלֵיכֶם אֶת־כָּל־עַבְדֵי
הַנְּבִיאִים יוֹם הַשָּׁבָע וְשָׁלַח׃ ²⁶ וְלֹא
שָׁמְעוּ אֵלַי וְלֹא הִטּוּ אֶת־אָזְנָם וַיִּקְשׁוּ
אֶת־עַרְפֹּתָם הִרְעוּ מֵאֲבוֹתָם׃

²⁷ וְדִבַּרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ אֲלֵיךָ וְקִרְאתָ אֲלֵיהֶם וְלֹא

Jeremiah 7:23. that I may be your God For the covenantal formula, see Exod. 6:7, 19:5; Lev. 26:12; Jer. 31:33.

them, but they will not respond to you. ²⁸Then say to them: This is the nation that would not obey the LORD their God, that would not accept rebuke. Faithfulness has perished, vanished from their mouths.

²⁹Shear your locks and cast them away,
Take up a lament on the heights,
For the LORD has spurned and cast off
The brood that provoked His wrath.

³⁰For the people of Judah have done what displeases Me—declares the LORD. They have set up their abominations in the House which is called by My name, and they have defiled it. ³¹And they have built the shrines of Topheth in the Valley of Ben-hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in fire—which I never commanded, which never came to My mind.

³²Assuredly, a time is coming—declares the LORD—when men shall no longer speak of Topheth or the Valley of Ben-hinnom, but of the Valley of Slaughter; and they shall bury in Topheth until no room is left. ³³The carcasses of this people shall be food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth, with none to frighten them off. ³⁴And I will silence in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem the sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of bridegroom and bride. For the whole land shall fall to ruin.

8 At that time—declares the LORD—the bones of the kings of Judah, of its officers, of

יֵעֲנוּכָהּ* : 28 וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם זֶה הַגּוֹי
אֲשֶׁר לֹא-שָׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיוּ וְלֹא
לָקְחוּ מוֹסֵר אַבְדָּהּ הָאֲמוּנָה וְנִכְבְּרָתָהּ
מִפִּיהֶם: ט

29 גָּזַי נִזְרָךְ וְהִשְׁלִיכֵי
וּשְׂאֵי עַל-שָׁפִים קִינָה
כִּי מָאָס יְהוָה וַיִּטֵּשׁ
אֶת-דֹּדוֹר עֲבָרָתוֹ:

30 כִּי-עָשׂוּ בְנֵי-יְהוּדָה הָרַע בְּעֵינַי נֹאֵם-
יְהוָה שָׁמוּ שְׁקוּצֵיהֶם בְּבַיִת אֲשֶׁר-נִקְרָא-
שְׁמִי עָלָיו לְטִמְאָו: 31 וּבָנוּ בְּמֹת הַתּוֹפֶת
אֲשֶׁר בָּגִיא בְּנֵי-הַנֶּחֱם לְשַׂרְף אֶת-בְּנֵיהֶם
וְאֶת-בָּנֹתֵיהֶם בְּאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא צִוִּיתִי וְלֹא
עָלְתָה עַל-לִבִּי: ט

32 לָכֵן הִנֵּה-יָמִים בָּאִים נֹאֵם-יְהוָה וְלֹא-
יֵאמַר עוֹד הַתּוֹפֶת וְגִיא בְּנֵי-הַנֶּחֱם כִּי אִם-
גִּיא הַהֲרָגָה וְקָבְרוּ בַתּוֹפֶת מֵאִן מְקוֹם:
33 וְהִיְתָה נְבִלַת הָעַם הַזֶּה לְמֵאֲכָל לְעוֹף
הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְבֶהֱמַת הָאָרֶץ וְאִין מִחֲרִיד:
34 וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי | מֵעָרֵי יְהוּדָה וּמִחֲצוֹת
יְרוּשָׁלַם קוֹל שִׁשׁוֹן וְקוֹל שְׂמִחָה קוֹל חֲתָן
וְקוֹל כִּלָּה כִּי לְחָרְבָה תִּהְיֶה הָאָרֶץ:

ח בַּעַת הַהֵיא נֹאֵם-יְהוָה וַיִּצִיאוּ
וַיִּצִיאוּ אֶת-עַצְמוֹת מַלְכֵי-יְהוּדָה וְאֶת-

v. 27. יתיר ה'

29–34. Lament and judgment for apostasy. Two crimes are named: setting abominations in the Temple and sacrificing children. Both are mentioned in connection with Manasseh (2 Kings 21:4–7).

29. The language of this statement of doom (“For the LORD has spurned [*ma-as*] and cast off [*va-yittosh*] / The brood that provoked His wrath

[*evrato*]”) is similar to the language bespeaking the divine rejection of the shrine of Shilo in Ps. 78:59. The common phraseology clearly derives from a rhetorical tradition of doom sayings.

33. Exposure of the dead was considered a great dishonor and desecration throughout the ancient world. The Assyrian king Ashurbanipal, recording his action against Susa, the capital of

the priests, of the prophets, and of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be taken out of their graves ²and exposed to the sun, the moon, and all the host of heaven which they loved and served and followed, to which they turned and bowed down. They shall not be gathered for reburial; they shall become dung upon the face of the earth. ³And death shall be preferable to life for all that are left of this wicked folk, in all the other places to which I shall banish them—declares the LORD of Hosts.

עֲצְמוֹת־שָׁרֵי וְאֶת־עֲצְמוֹת הַכֹּהֲנִים
וְאֶת | עֲצְמוֹת הַנְּבִיאִים וְאֶת עֲצְמוֹת
יוֹשְׁבֵי־ירוּשָׁלַם מִקְבְּרֵיהֶם: ² וְשִׁטְחוּם
לְשֶׁמֶשׁ וְלִירַח וְלְכָל | צְבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר
אָהָבוּ וְאֲשֶׁר עֲבָדוּם וְאֲשֶׁר הִלְכוּ
אֲחֵרֵיהֶם וְאֲשֶׁר דָּרְשׂוּם וְאֲשֶׁר הִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ
לָהֶם לֹא יֵאָסְפוּ וְלֹא יִקְבְּרוּ לְדָמֶן
עַל־פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה יֵהְיוּ: ³ וְנִבְחַר מוֹת
מֵחַיִּים לְכָל הַשְּׂאֲרִית הַנִּשְׁאָרִים מִן־
הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה הָרַעָה הַזֹּאת בְּכָל־הַמְּקוֹמוֹת
הַנִּשְׁאָרִים אֲשֶׁר הִדְחִיתִים שָׁם נְאֻם יְהוָה
צְבָאוֹת: ט

9 ²²Thus said the LORD:

Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom;
Let not the strong man glory in his strength;
Let not the rich man glory in his riches.

²³But only in this should one glory:

In his earnest devotion to Me.
For I the LORD act with kindness,
Justice, and equity in the world;
For in these I delight

—declares the LORD.

ט ²² כֹּה | אָמַר יְהוָה
אֶל־יְתֹהֵל חֲכָם בְּחִכְמָתוֹ
וְאֶל־יְתֹהֵל הַגִּבּוֹר בְּגִבּוֹרָתוֹ
אֶל־יְתֹהֵל עֲשִׂיר בְּעִשְׂרוֹ:
²³ כִּי אִם־בְּזֹאת יְתֹהֵל הַמֵּתֵהֵל
הַשֶּׁכֶל וְיִדַע אוֹתִי
כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה עֹשֶׂה חֶסֶד
מִשְׁפָּט וְצְדָקָה בְּאָרֶץ
כִּי־בָאֵלֶּה חֲפָצָתִי
נְאֻם־יְהוָה: ט

Elam, states that he “ravaged, tore down, and laid open to the sun” the tombs of the former kings of that place. In ancient Judah, during the same period, Josiah desecrated the tombs of the shrine of Bethel and exposed the bones (2 Kings 23:16).

Jeremiah 9:23. kindness, / Justice, and equity
Hebrew: *hesed, mishpat, and tz'dakab*. The last two terms constitute a pair that recurs frequently in the Bible as both a human and a divine ideal

(see, e.g., Gen. 18:19). The triad of elements is also found elsewhere for God (Ps. 33:5, 89:15) and for mortals (Isa. 16:5). This verse shows the link between these divine attributes and the covenant ideal. The triad is also recited as a core element of the covenant espousal in Hos. 2:21. Both texts link this brief covenantal summary to knowledge of God. See also Maimonides, *Guide* III:53.