

ואתה נתן לכם לשאת את-עון העדה לכפר עליהם לפני יהוה

God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation,
to make atonement for them before the LORD 10:17 ויקרא

By Duane D. Miller

This article discusses a very important question every Christian should be asking themselves, as well as looking at another Torah relationship Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled while here on earth. As believers in Yeshua, we should ask ourselves and the Lord about God's calling on our lives. God has a specific plan for your life as a believer; to investigate this I would like to look at the Torah. While looking at parashat shimini (פרשת שמיני)¹ we find another example where Yeshua did indeed fulfil the Torah as he claimed in the book of Matthew (habasora hakdoshah al-piy maty, הבשרה הקדושה על-פי מתי). In a previous article² we saw how the Torah points to Yeshua and we find here in parashat shimini another example how Yeshua fulfilled the Torah pertaining to his priestly role.

Matthew³

[5:17] Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. [5:18] For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (KJV)

I would like to look at only one part of Yeshua's priestly role which he fulfilled as Messiah. God through Moshe revealed to Aaron what his calling is as a priest of God for the children of Yisrael. Reading in parashat shimini the sons of Aaron, Eleazar and Ithamar did not eat the sin offering in the holy place as Moshe had commanded them to do.

Leviticus³

[10:14] And the wave breast and heave shoulder shall ye eat in a clean place; thou, and thy sons, and thy daughters with thee for they be thy due, and thy sons' due, which are given out of the sacrifices of peace offerings of the children of Israel. [10:15] The heave shoulder and the wave breast shall they bring with the offerings made by fire of the fat, to wave it for a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be thine, and thy sons' with thee, by a statute for ever; as the LORD hath commanded. [10:16] And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron which were left alive, saying, [10:17] Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it is most holy, and God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD? [10:18] Behold, the blood of it was not brought in within the holy place ye should indeed have eaten it in the holy place, as I commanded. [10:19] And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD; and such things have befallen me and if I

had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD? [10:20] And when Moses heard that, he was content.

While reading through that portion of scripture, did you notice Leviticus 10:17 jumps out because it introduces an interesting fundamental concept. In Leviticus 10:17, it is written, the priestly role was to internalize the sacrifice (to eat/consume) thereby taking upon themselves and bearing the iniquity of the congregation to make atonement before the Lord. I say again, this is a very fundamental concept taught to us by the Torah. The priestly role was to take upon himself the iniquity of the congregation in order to make atonement for sin. In the same way Yeshua, being our high priest, bear our iniquities upon the cross and then made atonement for our sins by his own blood.

The apostle Paul, in the book of Romans, describes how logical the concept of one man bearing our iniquities before the Lord fits with what is written in the Torah.

Romans³

[5:10] For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. [5:11] And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. [5:12] Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ...

[5:17] For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. [5:18] Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. (KJV) (KJV)

So, according to the apostle Paul, sin entered into the world by one man Adam, therefore it is only logical that by one man shall the gift of righteousness be given to mankind leading unto justification before God. This mystery where the priest was to bear the iniquity of the sinner has been revealed in Yeshua and his fulfillment of Torah.

Furthermore, there is something very important to notice here in the Torah and in Yeshua's life. God had a plan for Aaron and his sons, and the priestly tribe of the Levites. There was also a plan for Yeshua's life; he demonstrated a perfect life in obedience to Torah, and laid down his life, shedding his blood for our redemption. This plan which God has for their lives is called "their calling by God."

Each of us has a calling on his or her life!

I believe every believer has a specific calling by God in his or her life. The congregation/church is a complete set of individuals each of which functions as part of the body of Christ. Just as our physical bodies have different parts all of which work together to sustain our lives, the same occurs within the body of believers. Each individual believer has a specific role within the church that is his or her calling by God. Therefore, the question we should ask ourselves is "what is my calling and how am I using my gifts which God has given me to bring glory to his Holy Name?"

Have you asked the Lord about your calling and how the Lord can use you to reach out to others?

How many of us have wasted our lives before the television when we could be reaching out to our brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers, even husbands and wives. There are so many people who are in need of a tender encouraging word in their lives. Mothers and Fathers, it does not matter what age your children grow to be, they still need that word of encouragement. There is nothing quite like the approval of a parent saying how proud they are of their children's accomplishments. We demonstrate our love by being there for those we love and for people who are in need. The early church (New Testament Church), in the book of Acts, demonstrated their love in the body of Christ both physically and spiritually. As believers today in the 21st century, the needs of others has not changed, it is only the complexity of life that has changed with the advent of technology. In other words, a higher pace of life makes for less time spent with the people we love and less time spent with God. Is it no wonder we see society in such moral decay and anti-family ideology.

God definitely has a ministerial calling for each and every one of us. By finding our calling and using the gifts God has given us we can find true happiness by serving the Lord. Knowing that God has a calling on your life I encourage you to ask the Lord about his calling on your life and begin using your gifts today!

Baruch HaShem

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

References and Notes

1. Read the Bible in a Year in Email. <http://www.bibleinayear.org/> . 6-23-2006.
2. Duane D.Miller. Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation. http://www.matsati.com/Kingdom_of_priests_and_a_Holy_nation.pdf . 2006.
3. C. I. Scofield, *Scofield Study Bible, KJV* (Oxford University Press, New York, 2003), pp. 1-1048.