**Parashat Tetzaveh/ פרשת תצוה**

Shabbat Adar 10, 5768, Feb. 16, 2008

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http://www.matsati.com | H[Umatsati@matsati.comU](mailto:matsati@matsati.com)

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**This Weeks Reading List:**   
Torah: Exodus 27:20-30:10

Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-43:27  
B’rit HaChadashah: Hebrews 13:10-17

Both Parshiot Terumah and Tetzeveh deal with the mitzvot (commandment) dealing with the construction of the Mishkhan (tabernacle). Note that this section of the Torah is called “Tzivui HaMishkhan” (ציווי המשכן, commandment of the tabernacle), where צו (decree, command) is written in the imperative form. The imperative form suggests a grammatical mood that expresses the will to influence the behavior of another. The title “Tzivui HaMiskhan” in these Parshiot deals with the commandment to build the Mishkhan (tabernacle) in contrast to Parshiot Vayakhel/Pekudei which describes the actual construction of the Mishkhan (tabernacle).

In this parsha we find (i) the mitzvah (commandment) to light the Menorah (*Exodus 27:20-21*), (ii) eight types of special priestly garments (*Exodus 28:1-43*), (iii) the seven-day dedication ceremony (*Exodus 29:1-37*) where each day one bull and two rams are offered, (iv) the daily offering on the Mizbayach (altar) (*Exodus 29:38-43*) where each day one lamb in the morning and one lamb in the evening are offered, (v) the blessing over the Ohel Mo’ed (אהל מועד, Tent of Meeting), and the altar (*Exodus 29:44-46*), and (vi) the Mizbach HaK’toret (the incense altar) (*Exodus 30:1-10*). This parsha is chuck-full of details. The specific details I would like to look at are those which deal with the Cohenim (priests) and the Mizbach (altar).

***Exodus 29:5-14***

*29:5 Take the garments, and put on Aharon the tunic, the robe for the ritual vest, the vest itself, and the breastplate. Fasten the vest on him with its belt. 29:6 Put the turban on his head and attach the holy ornament to the turban. 29:7 Then take the anointing oil, and anoint him by pouring it on his head. 29:8 Bring his sons; put tunics on them; 29:9 wrap sashes around them, Aharon and his sons; and put the headgear on their heads. The office of cohen is to be theirs by a permanent regulation. Thus you will consecrate Aharon and his sons. 29:10 "Bring the young bull to the front of the tent of meeting. Aharon and his sons are to lay their hands on the bull's head, 29:11 and you are to slaughter the bull in the presence of ADONAI at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 29:12 Take some of the bull's blood, and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger; pour out all the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. 29:13 Take all the fat that covers the inner organs, the covering of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat, and offer them up in smoke on the altar. 29:14 But the bull's flesh, skin and dung you are to destroy by fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering. (CJB)*

The consecration of Aaron and his sons indicate the great honor and glory of their position which I believe is reflected in their garments. (*Exodus 28:2 You are to make for your brother Aharon garments set apart for serving God, expressing dignity and splendor. (CJB)*) The primary role of the Cohen is to place the blood and particular parts of the animals upon the altar as a sacrifice to make atonement for the people. We see this reflected in the consecration of Aaron and his sons in *Exodus 29:5-14*. The other parts which are not burned upon the altar in the Mishkhan (tabernacle) such as the bull’s flesh, skin, the dung, etc are subsequently burned outside the camp because it is a sin offering. I find that statement very interesting because it ties in with this week’s reading from Sefer Ivrit (Book of Hebrews).

***Hebrew 13:10-17***

*13:10 We have an altar from which those who serve in the Tent are not permitted to eat. 13:11 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. 13:12 So too Yeshua suffered death outside the gate, in order to make the people holy through his own blood. 13:13 Therefore, let us go out to him who is outside the camp and share his disgrace. 13:14 For we have no permanent city here; on the contrary, we seek the one to come. 13:16 But don't forget doing good and sharing with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your lives, as people who will have to render an account. So make it a task of joy for them, not one of groaning; for that is of no advantage to you. (CJB)*

In *Hebrews 13:12* we find in the same way Yeshua suffered death outside the gate, outside of the camp to make the people holy through his own blood. Here we find Yeshua modelling the Torah in his life and in his death.

**Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,

“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever