

Shemini

Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47

This translation was taken from the JPS Tanakh

Chapter 9

¹ On the eighth day Moses called Aaron and his sons, and the elders of Israel. ² He said to Aaron: "Take a calf of the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, without blemish, and bring them before the Lord. ³ And speak to the Israelites, saying: Take a he-goat for a sin offering; a calf and a lamb, yearlings without blemish, for a burnt offering; ⁴ and an ox and a ram for an offering of well-being to sacrifice before the Lord; and a meal offering with oil mixed in. For today the Lord will appear to you."

⁵ They brought to the front of the Tent of Meeting the things that Moses had commanded, and the whole community came forward and stood before the Lord. ⁶ Moses said: "This is what the Lord has commanded that you do, that the Presence of the Lord may appear to you." ⁷ Then Moses said to Aaron: "Come forward to the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering, making expiation for yourself and for the people; and sacrifice the people's offering and make expiation for them, as the Lord has commanded."

⁸ Aaron came forward to the altar and slaughtered his calf of sin offering. ⁹ Aaron's sons brought the blood to him; he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar; and he poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ¹⁰ The fat, the kidneys, and the protuberance of the liver from the sin offering he turned into smoke on the altar — as the Lord had commanded Moses; ¹¹ and the flesh and the skin were consumed in fire outside the camp. ¹² Then he slaughtered the burnt offering. Aaron's sons passed the blood to him, and he dashed it against all sides of the altar. ¹³ They passed the burnt offering to him in sections, as well as the head, and he turned it into smoke on the altar. ¹⁴ He washed the entrails and the legs, and turned them into smoke on the altar with the burnt offering.

¹⁵ Next he brought forward the people's offering. He took the goat for the people's sin offering, and slaughtered it, and presented it as a sin offering like the previous one. ¹⁶ He brought forward the burnt offering and sacrificed it according to regulation. ¹⁷ He then brought forward the meal offering and, taking a handful of it, he turned it into smoke on the altar — in addition to the burnt offering of the morning. ¹⁸ He slaughtered the ox and the ram, the people's sacrifice of well-being. Aaron's sons passed the blood to him — which he dashed against every side of the altar — ¹⁹ and the fat parts of the ox and the ram: the broad tail, the covering [fat], the kidneys, and the protuberances of the livers. ²⁰ They laid these fat parts over the breasts; and Aaron turned the fat parts into smoke on the altar, ²¹ and elevated the breasts and the right thighs as an elevation offering before the Lord — as Moses had commanded.

²² Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them; and he stepped down after offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the offering of well-being. ²³ Moses and Aaron then went

inside the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the Presence of the Lord appeared to all the people. ²⁴ Fire came forth from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat parts on the altar. And all the people saw, and shouted, and fell on their faces.

Chapter 10

¹ Now Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his fire pan, put fire in it, and laid incense on it; and they offered before the Lord alien fire, which He had not enjoined upon them. ² And fire came forth from the Lord and consumed them; thus they died at the instance of the Lord. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord meant when He said:

Through those near to Me I show Myself holy,
And gain glory before all the people."

And Aaron was silent.

⁴ Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Come forward and carry your kinsmen away from the front of the sanctuary to a place outside the camp."

⁵ They came forward and carried them out of the camp by their tunics, as Moses had ordered. ⁶ And Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not bare your heads and do not rend your clothes, lest you die and anger strike the whole community. But your kinsmen, all the house of Israel, shall bewail the burning that the Lord has wrought. ⁷ And so do not go outside the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, lest you die, for the Lord's anointing oil is upon you." And they did as Moses had bidden.

⁸ And the Lord spoke to Aaron, saying: ⁹ Drink no wine or other intoxicant, you or your sons, when you enter the Tent of Meeting, that you may not die. This is a law for all time throughout the ages, ¹⁰ for you must distinguish between the sacred and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean; ¹¹ and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which the Lord has imparted to them through Moses.

¹² Moses spoke to Aaron and to his remaining sons, Eleazar and Ithamar: Take the meal offering that is left over from the Lord's offerings by fire and eat it unleavened beside the altar, for it is most holy. ¹³ You shall eat it in the sacred precinct, inasmuch as it is your due, and that of your children, from the Lord's offerings by fire; for so I have been commanded. ¹⁴ But the breast of elevation offering and the thigh of gift offering you, and your sons and daughters with you, may eat in any clean place, for they have been assigned as a due to you and your children from the Israelites' sacrifices of well-being. ¹⁵ Together with the fat of fire offering, they must present the thigh of gift offering and the breast of elevation offering, which are to be elevated as an elevation offering before the Lord, and which are to be your due and that of your children with you for all time — as the Lord has commanded.

¹⁶ Then Moses inquired about the goat of sin offering, and it had already been burned! He was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's remaining sons, and said, ¹⁷ "Why did you not eat the sin offering in the sacred area? For it is most holy, and He has given it to you to remove the guilt of the community and to make expiation for them before the Lord. ¹⁸ Since its blood was not brought

inside the sanctuary, you should certainly have eaten it in the sanctuary, as I commanded." ¹⁹ And Aaron spoke to Moses, "See, this day they brought their sin offering and their burnt offering before the Lord, and such things have befallen me! Had I eaten sin offering today, would the Lord have approved?" ²⁰ And when Moses heard this, he approved.

Chapter 11

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them: ² Speak to the Israelite people thus:

These are the creatures that you may eat from among all the land animals: ³ any animal that has true hoofs, with clefts through the hoofs, and that chews the cud — such you may eat. ⁴ The following, however, of those that either chew the cud or have true hoofs, you shall not eat: the camel — although it chews the cud, it has no true hoofs: it is unclean for you; ⁵ the daman — although it chews the cud, it has no true hoofs: it is unclean for you; ⁶ the hare — although it chews the cud, it has no true hoofs: it is unclean for you; ⁷ and the swine — although it has true hoofs, with the hoofs cleft through, it does not chew the cud: it is unclean for you. ⁸ You shall not eat of their flesh or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.

⁹ These you may eat of all that live in water: anything in water, whether in the seas or in the streams, that has fins and scales — these you may eat. ¹⁰ But anything in the seas or in the streams that has no fins and scales, among all the swarming things of the water and among all the other living creatures that are in the water — they are an abomination for you ¹¹ and an abomination for you they shall remain: you shall not eat of their flesh and you shall abominate their carcasses. ¹² Everything in water that has no fins and scales shall be an abomination for you.

¹³ The following you shall abominate among the birds — they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, and the black vulture; ¹⁴ the kite, falcons of every variety; ¹⁵ all varieties of raven; ¹⁶ the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull; hawks of every variety; ¹⁷ the little owl, the cormorant, and the great owl; ¹⁸ the white owl, the pelican, and the bustard; ¹⁹ the stork; herons of every variety; the hoopoe, and the bat.

²⁰ All winged swarming things that walk on fours shall be an abomination for you. ²¹ But these you may eat among all the winged swarming things that walk on fours: all that have, above their feet, jointed legs to leap with on the ground — ²² of these you may eat the following: locusts of every variety; all varieties of bald locust; crickets of every variety; and all varieties of grasshopper. ²³ But all other winged swarming things that have four legs shall be an abomination for you.

²⁴ And the following shall make you unclean — whoever touches their carcasses shall be unclean until evening, ²⁵ and whoever carries the carcasses of any of them shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening — ²⁶ every animal that has true hoofs but without clefts through the hoofs, or that does not chew the cud. They are unclean for you; whoever touches them shall be unclean. ²⁷ Also all animals that walk on paws, among those that walk on fours, are unclean for you; whoever touches their carcasses shall be unclean until evening. ²⁸ And anyone who carries their carcasses shall wash his clothes and remain unclean until evening. They are unclean for you.

²⁹ The following shall be unclean for you from among the things that swarm on the earth: the mole, the mouse, and great lizards of every variety; ³⁰ the gecko, the land crocodile, the lizard, the sand lizard, and the chameleon. ³¹ Those are for you the unclean among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening. ³² And anything on which one of them falls when dead shall be unclean: be it any article of wood, or a cloth, or a skin, or a sack — any such article that can be put to use shall be dipped in water, and it shall remain unclean until evening; then it shall be clean. ³³ And if any of those falls into an earthen vessel, everything inside it shall be unclean and [the vessel] itself you shall break. ³⁴ As to any food that may be eaten, it shall become unclean if it came in contact with water; as to any liquid that may be drunk, it shall become unclean if it was inside any vessel. ³⁵ Everything on which the carcass of any of them falls shall be unclean: an oven or stove shall be smashed. They are unclean and unclean they shall remain for you. ³⁶ However, a spring or cistern in which water is collected shall be clean, but whoever touches such a carcass in it shall be unclean. ³⁷ If such a carcass falls upon seed grain that is to be sown, it is clean; ³⁸ but if water is put on the seed and any part of a carcass falls upon it, it shall be unclean for you.

³⁹ If an animal that you may eat has died, anyone who touches its carcass shall be unclean until evening; ⁴⁰ anyone who eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and remain unclean until evening; and anyone who carries its carcass shall wash his clothes and remain unclean until evening.

⁴¹ All the things that swarm upon the earth are an abomination; they shall not be eaten. ⁴² You shall not eat, among all things that swarm upon the earth, anything that crawls on its belly, or anything that walks on fours, or anything that has many legs; for they are an abomination. ⁴³ You shall not draw abomination upon yourselves through anything that swarms; you shall not make yourselves unclean therewith and thus become unclean. ⁴⁴ For I the Lord am your God: you shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not make yourselves unclean through any swarming thing that moves upon the earth. ⁴⁵ For I the Lord am He who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God: you shall be holy, for I am holy.

⁴⁶ These are the instructions concerning animals, birds, all living creatures that move in water, and all creatures that swarm on earth, ⁴⁷ for distinguishing between the unclean and the clean, between the living things that may be eaten and the living things that may not be eaten.