

# Shemini

## Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47

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### 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.

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## Haftarah for Shemini

### II Samuel 6:1 - 7:17

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#### Chapter 6

1 David again assembled all the picked men of Israel, thirty thousand strong. 2 Then David and all the troops that were with him set out from Baalim of Judah to bring up from there the Ark of God to which the Name was attached, the name Lord of Hosts Enthroned on the Cherubim.

3 They loaded the Ark of God onto a new cart and conveyed it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Abinadab's sons, Uzza and Ahio, guided the new cart. 4 They conveyed it from Abinadab's house on the hill, [Uzzah walking] alongside the Ark of God and Ahio walking in front of the Ark. 5 Meanwhile, David and all the House of Israel danced before the Lord to [the sound of] all kinds of cypress wood [instruments], with lyres, harps, timbrels, sistrums, and cymbals.

6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out for the Ark of God and grasped it, for the oxen had stumbled. 7 The Lord was incensed at Uzzah. And God struck him down on the spot for his indiscretion, and he died there beside the Ark of God. 8 David was distressed because the Lord had inflicted a breach upon Uzzah; and that place was named Perez-uzzah, as it is still called.

9 David was afraid of the Lord that day; he said, "How can I let the Ark of the Lord come to me?" 10 So David would not bring the Ark of the Lord to his place in the City of David; instead, David diverted it to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 The Ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and his whole household.

12 It was reported to King David: "The Lord has blessed Obed-edom's house and all that belongs to him because of the Ark of God." Thereupon David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David, amid rejoicing. 13 When the bearers of the Ark of the Lord had moved forward six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. 14 David whirled with all his might before the Lord; David was girt with a linen ephod. 15 Thus David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord

with shouts and with blasts of the horn.

16 As the Ark of the Lord entered the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him for it.

17 They brought in the Ark of the Lord and set it up in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. 18 When David finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Hosts. 19 And he distributed among all the people - the entire multitude of Israel, man and woman alike - to each a loaf of bread, a cake made in a pan, and a raisin cake. Then all the people left for their homes.

### ***Sepharadim end here***

20 David went home to greet his household. And Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "Didn't the king of Israel do himself honor today - exposing himself today in the sight of the slavegirls of his subjects, as one of the riffraff might expose himself!" 21 David answered Michal, "It was before the Lord who chose me instead of your father and all his family and appointed me ruler over the Lord's people Israel! I will dance before the Lord 22 and dishonor myself even more, and be low in my own esteem; but among the slavegirls that you speak of I will be honored." 23 So to her dying day Michal daughter of Saul had no children.

## **Chapter 7**

1 When the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had granted him safety from all the enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan: "Here I am dwelling in a house of cedar, while the Ark of the Lord abides in a tent!" 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go and do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5 "Go and say to My servant David: Thus said the Lord: Are you the one to build a house for Me to dwell in? 6 From the day that I brought the people of Israel out of Egypt to this day I have not dwelt in a house, but have moved about in Tent and Tabernacle. 7 As I moved about wherever the Israelites went, did I ever reproach any of the tribal leaders whom I appointed to care for My people Israel: Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"

8 "Further, say thus to My servant David: Thus said the Lord of Hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be ruler of My people Israel, 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut down all your enemies before you. Moreover, I will give you great renown like that of the greatest men on earth. 10 I will establish a home for My people Israel and will plant them firm, so that they shall dwell secure and shall tremble no more. Evil men shall not oppress them any more as in the past, 11 ever since I appointed chieftains over My people Israel. I will give you safety from all your enemies.

"The Lord declares to you that He, the Lord, will establish a house for you. 12 When your days are done and you lie with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own issue, and I will establish his kingship. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. 14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to Me. When he does wrong, I will chastise him with the rod of men and the affliction of mortals; 15 but I will never withdraw My favor from him as I withdrew it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. 16 Your house and your kingship shall ever be secure before you; your throne shall be established forever."

17 Nathan spoke to David in accordance with all these words and all this prophecy.

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Taken from *Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures*,  
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