



Tzav

(command)

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 6:1-8:36 [in English Bibles - 6:8-8:36]

A Continual Fire

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 6:8-13

8 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

9 "Command Aharon and his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the burnt-offering: the burnt-offering shall be on the hearth upon the altar all night to the morning; and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning thereon.

10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh; and he shall take up the ashes whereto the fire has consumed the burnt-offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.

11 And he shall put off his garments, and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes without the camp to a clean place.

12 And the fire upon the altar shall be kept burning thereon, it shall not go out; and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning: and he shall lay the burnt-offering in order upon it, and shall burn thereon the fat of the peace-offerings.

13 Fire shall be kept burning upon the altar continually; it shall not go out.'"

YHWH commands Israel to keep a fire going at all times upon the altar. It is never to go out. Basically, this means that someone is tending the fire night and day to make sure that it does not go out.

But what could be the purpose of YHWH giving us this commandment of keeping a perpetual fire going on the altar?

Please consider the following passages in relation to this commandment.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 4:24

24 "For YHWH your Elohim is a devouring fire, a jealous Elohim."

And again;

Ivrim [Hebrews] 12:28-29

28 Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to Elohim with reverence and awe:

29 for our Elohim is a consuming fire.

We see that both the Tanak (Old Testament) and the Brit Chadasha (New Testament) give witness to the fact that YHWH is an all-consuming fire. This would seem to indicate, that at least one of the reasons for the Torah commandment above, is to remind us of His eternal presence with Israel. We need to pay special attention to this truth, as it impacts all of us in Israel. Please prayerfully note the following passages of Scripture.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 9:3

3 "Know therefore this day, that YHWH your Elohim is He who goes over before you as a devouring fire; He will destroy them, and He will bring them down before you; so shall you drive them out, and make them to perish quickly, as YHWH has spoken to you."

First of all, note that YHWH will consume all enemies of Israel with a fire. Even though He may use Israel to do this as He did at Yericho (Jericho), He is the one that is actually "making to perish" those opposed to Him and Israel. This means that He is the One who should receive all the glory and honor for this.

This not only includes those nations which are full of wickedness, but also those individuals within Israel who refuse to fully submit to those whom He places in authority in Israel. Please prayerfully consider the following two examples from the Torah.

Bemidbar [Numbers] 11:1

1 And the people were as murmurers, speaking evil in the ears of YHWH; and when YHWH heard it, his anger was kindled; and the fire of YHWH burnt among them, and devoured in the uttermost part of the camp.

No one can speak evil in the hearing of YHWH and expect to be immune; and sometimes this evil speaking also affects those in close proximity. So, if you are aware of an evil speaker (lashon hara), then you had better speak up and put an end to the evil speaking; and if the evil speaker continues, then it might just be wise to put as much distance between you and the evil speaker as possible.

But what is lashon hara or evil speaking? It is defaming another person in the eyes of others. If what is being said reduces the esteem of one person in the eyes of another, then YHWH's anger will be kindled against the person so doing this evil deed.

I have seen instances where the person so guilty of this evil speaking began experiencing the discipline of YHWH for this type of evil. But he had so convinced *himself* of his own rightness, that he was not able to repent; for he felt so *justified* in attempting to *destroy* the other person, that he could not see his *own* sin. The end result was his being totally consumed by His anger. This would not be necessary if the person would have just seen his own sin for what it was, and repented before YHWH and man!

After all, who really wants YHWH to consume him with fire?

Bemidbar [Numbers] 16:35

35 And fire came forth from YHWH, and devoured the two hundred and fifty men that offered the incense.

If a person is going to minister before YHWH, he had better do it exactly as He commands! Otherwise, it will displease YHWH; and when YHWH is displeased in this fashion (willful and wanton disobedience – open rebellion), then that person’s life is in jeopardy.

Shemot [Exodus] 3:2

2 And the Malak of YHWH appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

However, if a person is a friend of YHWH’s, then YHWH protects that person and does not consume him with His fire.

So just how should we react to the truth that He is an all-consuming Fire?

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 9:24

24 And there came forth fire from before YHWH, and consumed upon the altar the burnt-offering and the fat; and when all the people saw it, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

It should cause us, if we are truly His people, to fall down and worship Him!

However, if this does not happen, then when we look at the context of this next passage, we see that YHWH’s fire will go forth, and not only consume His enemies, but He will also consume all of the earth.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 32:22

22 “For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and burns to the lowest Sheol, and devours the earth with its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.”

And as we see in the next passage, this will take place when Yeshua returns.

Kepha Bet [2nd Peter] 3:10-12

10 But the day of YHWH will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all set-apart living and righteousness,

12 looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of Elohim, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

This is what happens just prior to the new heavens and the new earth being reformed. It is a type of immersion. The earth has seen the immersion of the earth with water in the days of Noach. The next immersion that will happen is one of fire. The result will be a recreation of the heavens and the earth.

It seems that the commandment of having a continual fire upon the altar should remind us of these things. In this way, we will live a life filled with the proper fear of YHWH and live a set-apart life full of His righteousness.

This brings us to a question one of my sons asked concerning the Pesach, and why we burn the leftovers, and what does that mean for us?

It seems that this particular commandment is to point us to the end of the world, and in particular, that the time of salvation is over; i.e., that His salvation is limited and conditional. It is conditional, because not all will be saved, only those who truly repent and obey His Voice. It is limited, because once the bride is complete, He will no longer offer salvation. When Yeshua returns, a person is either saved or not saved at that point, and the bride of Yeshua is closed. It is finished! Please consider the following passage.

Revelation 14:12-20

12 Here is the patience of the saints, they that keep the commandments of Elohim (Torah), and the faith of Yeshua.

13 And I heard the voice from heaven saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Master from henceforth: 'yea,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.'"

14 And I saw, and behold, a white cloud; and on the cloud one sitting like a Son of Man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another messenger came out from the temple, crying with a great voice to Him that sat on the cloud, "Send forth Your sickle, and reap: for the hour to reap is come; for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

16 And He that sat on the cloud cast his sickle upon the earth; and the earth was reaped.

17 Another messenger came out from the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another messenger came out from the altar, he that hath power over fire; and he called with a great voice to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, "Send forth Your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe."

19 And the messenger cast his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vintage of the earth, and cast it into the winepress, the great (winepress), of the wrath of Elohim.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and there came out blood from the winepress, even unto the bridles of the horses, as far as a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Please note, that at some point in the future, Yeshua reaps the earth; and those that He takes or reaps, are those who do not believe in Him, nor keep the commandments of YHWH's Torah. At this point, the possibility for salvation to be extended to this group of people is over.

So when we burn the leftover Pesach lamb the next morning, it reminds us, that in order to be included in His salvation, we need to have the blood applied to the doorposts and lintels of our hearts in His appointed time. Otherwise, the destroyer comes and removes us.

Burning Pesach leftovers should remind us that YHWH is an all-consuming fire, and that either we can allow Him to consume all the impurities in us now, or else He will consume us along with our impurities in the end. It is our choice. May we choose wisely with His wisdom, now.

B'reshit [Genesis] 6:3a

3 And YHWH said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for that he also is flesh..."

Unlike what Christianity generally teaches, Scripture teaches us that YHWH will not always extend to (strive with) mankind the possibility of salvation. Yeshua taught that when He returns as the Bridegroom, some will be able to go in and be with Him, but there will be others who will be outside when the door is shut. Scripture indicates that they will be forever lost at that point. Yeshua offered salvation to them, they rejected it in its appointed time, and now that opportunity is forever gone.

When we begin to understand that YHWH is an all consuming fire, then we can begin to see that He will consume all things. The question before each one of us is: when will He consume us? We can allow Him to consume us now (put to death the deeds of the flesh) or we will be consumed at the judgment (lake of fire).

The Meal Offering

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 6:14-18

14 “And this is the law of the meal-offering; the sons of Aharon shall offer it before YHWH, before the altar.

15 And he shall take up from there his handful, of the fine flour of the meal-offering, and of the oil thereof, and all the frankincense which is upon the meal-offering, and shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savor, as the memorial thereof, to YHWH.

16 And that which is left thereof shall Aharon and his sons eat; it shall be eaten without leaven in a set-apart place; in the court of the tent of meeting they shall eat it.

17 It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it as their portion of my offerings made by fire; it is most set-apart, as the sin-offering, and as the trespass-offering.

18 Every male among the children of Aharon shall eat of it, as his portion for ever throughout your generations, from the offerings of YHWH made by fire; whosoever touches them shall be set-apart.”

Please note, that when someone brings a meal offering to YHWH, the kohen (priest) takes a handful of that meal (flour) and offers it up on the altar along with oil and frankincense. The rest of the flour then belongs to the kohenim (priesthood).

However, YHWH makes a stipulation in the preparation and eating of this meal (of which the priest offers up a portion to YHWH); it can only be prepared and eaten as unleavened bread. This passage seems most appropriate during this season of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

This meal has been set-apart to YHWH; and basically what YHWH is saying here, is that the priesthood is not to mix anything with it; it is to remain pure (as they are to remain pure). It is a constant reminder to them, that they are not to have sin in their lives.

Meal Offering of the Kohen

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 6:19-23

19 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

20 “This is the oblation of Aharon and of his sons, which they shall offer to YHWH in the day when he is anointed: the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a meal-offering perpetually, half of it in the morning, and half thereof in the evening.

21 On a baking-pan it shall be made with oil; when it is soaked, you shall bring it in; in baked pieces shall you offer the meal-offering for a sweet savor to YHWH.

22 And the anointed priest that shall be in his stead from among his sons shall offer it; by a statute forever it shall be wholly burnt to YHWH.

23 And every meal-offering of the priest shall be wholly burnt: it shall not be eaten.”

YHWH gives another perpetual statute concerning the priesthood in this passage. YHWH commands that the reigning kohen gadol is to offer a meal offering every day, morning and evening. This meal offering (unlike the meal offering of the common people) is not to be eaten by anyone. None of the priests are to eat of this meal offering at all; it is to be completely consumed by the fire on the altar.

This offering is to be as a sweet savor before YHWH perpetually. Please consider the following passage in light of this Torah commandment.

Qorintyah [2 Corinthians] 2:14-17

14 But thanks be to Elohim, who always leads us in triumph in Mashiach, and makes manifest through us the savor of his knowledge in every place.

15 For we are a sweet savor of Mashiach to Elohim, in them that are saved, and in them that perish;

16 to the one a savor from death to death; to the other a savor from life to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

17 For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of Elohim; but as of sincerity, but as of Elohim, in the sight of Elohim, speak we in Mashiach.

We are to be a sweet smelling savor to all we come into contact with. To some we are a savor of death; yet to others we are a savor of life. To those that have life, we are a sweet savor of life; however, to those who do not possess (eternal) life, we are a savor of death (theirs).

Please also note that this can only be true of those who are not corrupting the word of Elohim. If a person is corrupting the word of Elohim, then it is not possible for that person to be a sweet smelling savor unto YHWH.

Most Set-apart to YHWH

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 6:24-30

24 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

25 “Speak to Aharon and to his sons, saying, ‘This is the Torah of the sin-offering: in the place where the burnt-offering is killed shall the sin-offering be killed before YHWH; it is most set-apart.

26 The priest that offers it for sin shall eat it; in a set-apart place shall it be eaten, in the court of the tent of meeting.

27 Whatsoever shall touch the flesh thereof shall be set-apart; and when there is sprinkled of the blood thereof upon any garment, you shall wash that whereon it was sprinkled in a set-apart place.

28 But the earthen vessel wherein it is boiled shall be broken; and if it be boiled in a brazen vessel, it shall be scoured, and rinsed in water.

29 Every male among the priests shall eat thereof; it is most set-apart.

30 And no sin-offering, whereof any of the blood is brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the set-apart place, shall be eaten: it shall be burnt with fire.”

When a person comes and offers a sin offering, it is to be eaten by the priest that offers it up to YHWH. Included in those who eat of this offering, are all the males of the kohanim.

When this offering is cooked, it is to be cooked in either a metal pot (brazen vessel) or a clay pot. If it is cooked in a clay pot, then the pot is to be broken and not used again. Clay pots being rather porous, it is very difficult, nigh impossible, to clean out all the residue of blood from cooking meat in it. It would seem that what YHWH is actually commanding us, is that He would prefer that we use a metal pot to cook the meat in. However, if we choose to cook meat in a clay pot, then that pot can never be used again, as it is to be broken, and that could get expensive, using up a lot of clay pots.

YHWH reminds us that we are not to eat any of the blood of the sin offering. Rather, the blood is to be burnt with fire. Let us remember that the life is in the blood and YHWH commands us not to eat any meat with blood still in it.

Another Type of Sin Offering

It would seem reasonable that most of us are familiar with the concept that we are all sinners and in need of salvation from YHWH.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of Elohim;

Since it is a spiritual truth in each and every one of our lives, that we have sinned, and are, in fact, sinners, we do not, and cannot, measure up to His standard of set-apartness. What we are worthy of is the death penalty. There are no exceptions among us today!

Romans 8:13

13 for if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you shall live.

Now here is the situation that we have all found ourselves in (some in the past and some in the present). We have all been guilty of living according to the desires of the flesh. What this basically means, is that we need to die. We will die a physical death,

however, it is better for us now and for all eternity, if we choose to die to the desires of the flesh.

This act of dying to the desires of the flesh does not in any way bring us salvation. We just need to be very clear that it is only by the Blood of Yeshua that we are saved and have eternal life. However, what dying to self and the desires of the flesh does, is that it makes His salvation in us real and genuine for we can only serve one master. And that master can either be one's self (Satan – serving self or serving Satan, there is no real difference), or we can choose to serve the Master of the Universe, Yeshua our Mashiach.

Romans 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of Elohim, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, set-apart, acceptable to Elohim, (which is) your spiritual service.

We can become a living sacrifice. So instead of physically offering up our bodies because we are under the penalty of death, through Yeshua we can offer up our bodies as a living sacrifice, by putting to death our own desires, wants, and plans, and allowing Yeshua to live His life through us daily.

Romans 6:2

2 Elohim forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein?

If we have truly been born again and we have died to sin, then we will no longer live in sin! And what is sin? Simply put, sin is breaking the Law – it is breaking His Torah!

So now that we have been born from above, what we do is to live His life again and keep and obey His Torah (Law).

Romans 12:2

2 And be not fashioned according to this world; but you be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of Elohim.

Being transformed in our minds is an ongoing process that begins the day we truly repent of our sins and accept Yeshua as our Mashiach. Every day we work at allowing YHWH to have His way and to do His will in our lives so that He can build His Kingdom in and through us.

We are not only a member of His family, but we are also a subject of His Kingdom in which He commands us to go forth and increase and enlarge His territory.

Each one of us needs to make sure that we are building *His* Kingdom, and not our own or someone else's little empire! We need to make sure that the gifts, talents, abilities,

and all resources with which He so abundantly blesses us, are being used to build His Kingdom and to glorify Him, and Him alone!

When a non-believer looks at a Christian today, there is no visible difference between themselves and those who call themselves Christians. Don't get me wrong here, I have plenty of friends and family who are good, honest, upright, believing Christians. But Yeshua has called us to a life to be lived for Him. While we are in this world we are not to be of this world. This calls for living according to Scripture and not according to the traditions of man, this world, or the traditions of Christianity, which are in opposition to the truth of Scripture.

In your daily living, are you proving what YHWH's will is? When someone looks at your life can they tell what is good and acceptable? Or, when a person looks at your life are they left clueless about what is good and acceptable, and what is the will of Elohim?

ABBA YHWH, please transform each and every one of Your people into the image of your Son, day by day, so that we can be effective workers in building Your Kingdom; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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