

“Eighth”

For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God:
you shall be holy, for I am holy. Leviticus 11:45



Shemini means eight, referring here to the eighth day, the day Aaron and his sons began their priesthood in the Tabernacle, after seven days of inauguration. It is the month of springtime, Nissan one, the first day of Nissan. In the Bible the number eight has a supernatural significance, a new day or new “beginning” after the “natural” order of 7, and can be seen in places like the 8th day for circumcision, the 8th day of Succot—*Shemini Atzeret*, and the 8 days of Hanukah. Imagine the scene on that day! All the people, long anticipating, saw the the presence of the LORD appear to them as a consuming fire! They saw, shouted and fell on their faces as the offering was consumed.

Then there is the tragic turnaround where two of Aaron’s sons were consumed and died on the spot. Remember, from the previous parsha the word “Tzav”, that means command. Here we see “tzav” in the negative sense, in that Nadab and Abihu brought an offering that was “not” commanded. After this the Torah teaches about the “Kosher” laws and the distinction between animals that the LORD designates as clean and unclean. What can we learn from all that is in this parsha for our worship of the LORD? Pay attention to this week’s Haftarah as well on these themes, as we see Uzzah is struck down for his irreverence when he touches the ark. On the other end of the spectrum, King David dances with all his might in front of the LORD. To his wife, Michal, this is shameful, but to the LORD this is an act of pure and Holy Spirit full worship. We are to be holy as He holy—a theme scripture in the book of Leviticus and all of the Torah!. What is pleasing and what is unacceptable to Him? May we ask this as we draw near Him with a pure heart to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth!!

Praise

Who may go up on the mountain of ADONAI? Who may stand in His holy place? One with clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted his soul in vain, nor sworn deceitfully. Psalm 24:3~4

I delight to do Your will, O my God.
Yes, Your Torah is within my being.
Psalm 40:9

But an hour is coming—it is here now—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people as His worshipers. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:23~24

Let everything that has breath praise ADONAI. Hallelujah!
Psalm 150:6

Confession

But a man must examine himself, and then let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
1Corinthians 11:28

Thanksgiving

Ascribe to ADONAI the glory due to His Name. Bring an offering and come before Him. Worship ADONAI in the splendor of holiness. 1Chronicles 16:29

Intercession

But like the Holy One who called, may be holy in all his/her behavior, because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” May be holy, for God is holy.

1Peter 1:15~16, Leviticus 11:45

Then will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:5

I am the LORD,’s God, who brought out of Egypt;, open your mouth and I will fill it.

Psalm 81:11

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the LORD.

Colossians 3:20

May be a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled. must hold firmly to the trustworthy message in keeping with the teaching, so he/she can both encourage by instruction that is sound and convict those who speak against it.

Titus 1:8~9

....., be submitted to rulers and authorities, be obedient, be ready for every good deed, to slander no one, without fighting, gentle, showing every courtesy to all people.

Titus 3:1~2



Teachers

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

Schools

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him. That glory may dwell in our land. Psalm 85:9

Congregation

Therefore, my loved ones, just as you have always obeyed— not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence—work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For the One working in you is God—both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12~13

Israel

I will also set up a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so they may dwell in their own place and not be disturbed again. Nor will the children of wickedness afflict them anymore as in the past, since that day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. So I will give you rest from all your enemies.

2Samuel 7:10~11

Look upon Zion, city of our Festivals. Your eyes will see Jerusalem as a quiet home, a tent that will never be folded, its stakes never pulled up, its cords never broken. Isaiah 33:20

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem— May those who love you be at peace!

Psalm 122:6

Blessing to go

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

2Corinthians 5:9