

Water of His WORD



BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS
WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READING

--Roly Buys--

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

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Parashah Vayikra | ויקרא | “He called”

Week 24

This week's portion comes out of **Leviticus 1:1-5:26**; **Isaiah 43:21-44:23** and **Romans 8:1-13**.

SUMMARY

- ❖ The children of Israel, made up of the sons of Jacob and the 400,000 (thousand) others who had accepted YHVH as the only True GOD (YHVH), are camped out around the Tabernacle in formation, waiting to fulfil their calling in life.
- ❖ They are introduced to the protocol which sets out exactly 'how' we will approach and serve GOD (YHVH).
- ❖ This protocol DEFINES various sacrificial offerings, since we understand that the Tabernacle in the wilderness is a 'TYPE / REPLICA' of the Heavenly one, and as we accept that we must serve GOD (YHVH) in Spirit and Truth, it behoves us to learn how to present ourselves as Living Sacrifices that are acceptable, which produce the correct fragrance.

AN OFFERING THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE ON YOUR BEHALF

As we start to read this portion, we come across words that stand out and demand further attention. **These words, “connect” mankind, their conduct / behaviour, and the innocence of the sacrificial animal.**

TO BE A WITNESS

Whilst most of the portion deals with the various offerings, one verse stands out that makes us stop and think. For some reason or other, we find this single line comment that describes our duty as witnesses. And a little later we find a second short phrase that adds to this context.

Leviticus 5:1 *If a person who is a witness, sworn to testify, sins by refusing to tell what he has seen or heard about the matter, he must bear the consequences.*

Leviticus 5:24 *or anything about which he has sworn falsely*

No sentences or words are irrelevant. So it would seem good that we try to understand this concept of witness as a lifestyle, before we start to dig deeper into the world of living sacrifices.

The Hebrew word for witness is Strong's 5707 and describes the meaning as such:

- ◆ Witness, testimony, evidence (of things, people)
- ◆ With the added detail from the Gesenius-Lexicon below:

עֵד m. pr. part. of the root עָדָה.
(1) *witness*, Pro. 19:5, 9; used also of inanimate things, Gen. 31:44, 48; Isa. 19:20.
(2) *testimony*, pr. *what testifies*. עָדָה עֵדָה לְכָל אִישׁ לְעַד לְעַד to bear witness against any one, Ex. 20:16; Deu. 5:17; 31:21.
(3) *a prince*, pr. commander, legislator, Isa. 55:4. [The common meaning, *a witness*, needs not to be departed from in this passage.]

The Greek word for witness is Strong's 3140 "**marureo**"

"To be a witness, to bear witness, i.e. to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by Divine revelation or inspiration:

- ◆ to give (not to keep back) testimony
- ◆ to utter honourable testimony, give a good report
- ◆ conjure, implore"

Suddenly, this calling to be a witness, is not as simple as it first appears!!

A witness is not only the action of reporting honestly and fairly about an event, it is also the action of not swearing falsely about what happens at the event, BUT more critically it is all about a lifestyle of witnessing to others, that we are completely dependant on the Holy Spirit, and are dedicated to reflecting an authentic version of the Glory of GOD (YHVH).

And it's this latter role that determines whether we are WORTHY of this calling as defined in;

Isaiah 55:4-5 *I have given him as a witness to the peoples, a leader and lawgiver for the peoples. You will summon a nation you do not know, and a nation that doesn't know you will run to you, for the sake of ADONAI your God, the Holy One of Isra'el, who will glorify you.*

While the word witness in Hebrew speaks more to the purpose, the Greek word defines the DEGREE to which we should be prepared to make the commitment. And that is where we see the association with the concept of 'martyr' ... most of the disciples are regarded as martyrs ... having died for their beliefs.

Contrary to much of what we see today; where it seems that the focus is on telling / convincing people about the work of Messiah; we see that His living example is one where He demonstrates a lifestyle of obedience to **GOD (YHVH)'s** Will, where He reveals love to all, irrespective of their status, where He teaches all who will listen with practical examples that the ordinary man could apply in his day-to-day walk on earth.

Importantly, a witness in the Living Stone Tabernacle, will NOT be concerned about his social standing, nor about the views of their peers.

Two words that do not go together at all are **Compromise** and **Witness**.

The moment you decide to be a true witness (transparent, honest, fair), you will be set apart from others.

Many desire to take that stand ... however the PRICE always just seems too high. And it is then when we think that SILENCE is an option ... but it's really not.

You see, Our Saviour paid the complete price and we cannot have the benefits of the Covenant promise without accepting the responsibilities to go with that Sonship.



Paul becomes witness to both the Torah and to the Messiah!!!

There is a very interesting story, where Paul is seen as a trusted individual; at the time a representative of Judaism; and much of the man-made traditions that have been accumulated by the Jews over the years. It's the story of the stoning of Stephen.

Acts 7:56 *threw him outside the city and began stoning him. And the witnesses laid down their coats at the feet of a young man named Sha'ul.*

At this point in time, he represents the tradition / ruling of the old order.

Paul will still have his Damascus meeting and will undergo that process where the Torah will be transformed from the physical dimension into the spiritual one; where he will understand that we only witness by laying down our lives as a living sacrifice, doing the will of GOD (YHVH).

THE VARIOUS OFFERINGS

The portion defines a number of different offerings (5). Three of these are voluntary offerings while two are mandatory, when we have sinned. In each case, man is **being transformed** from a position "outside" of the camp, from a place of "uncleanness", to a position / place where he is **able to stand before the Tabernacle**.

Leviticus 1:4 *He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.*

There are many that would suggest that “the blood” of the animal “saved” the Israelites. Nothing can be further from the truth... **The act of repentance**, of acknowledging wrongdoing, the heartfelt response where a person makes restitution for their actions, **are all essential steps towards restoration.**

The blood of the sacrifice became the sign of atonement ... (Let’s be clear ... unless the Israelites had willingly made the decision to accept GOD (YHVH)’s Commandment to keep the Passover supper, to be ready to leave, they would not have been saved ... the blood on the lintel was a sign of the already proven obedience to the Commandment).



We know for certain GOD (YHVH) cares for us and is always ready to forgive those who call out for deliverance. If you have any doubt, read these words from the prophet Isaiah. We have this promise that the list of offences will be wiped away.

Isaiah 44:21-22 Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I formed you; you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

And then GOD (YHVH) asks all **of creation to sing out**, to declare praises for every soul that GOD (YHVH) redeems. **You see a part of the victory is in the sound of praises.** How sad that it seems that creation → mountains and trees, are more ready to praise GOD (YHVH) than man.

Isaiah 44:23 Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel.

Paul’s teachings are also focused on a **lifestyle that is changed**. We so often hear the words “you are saved by grace”. Many people today claim to be saved. Yet very often you will hear someone (often not a believer) say: “you should be careful to do business with people whose ethical behaviour and witness do not match up”.

A prayer of repentance, **without** the process of restitution, is worthless. Your “old man” is **still very much in control**. It is clear that if our actions come from the flesh, then we cannot claim to be presenting our bodies as living sacrifices and we cannot claim that grace is sufficient.

The idea is not to develop a list of works that must be done, rather defining a lifestyle that reflects the Loving Character of GOD (YHVH). Works with the wrong attitude, will never be accepted as a sacrifice.

Romans 8:5-8 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Paul is clear ... if we live according to the old nature; if we continue doing what we did before, we will die according to that standard.

Romans 8:12-13 *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Unless we see a change of behaviour, we will see a **continual never-ending process of repentance**. Although we make mistakes from time to time, we should always be walking (over time) to a higher level of character.

In the wilderness, this process of "learning" is described as going round and round the mountain. GOD (YHVH) will set a date for you to move on, but only when you have "**passed the test**".

It may be true that the activity of asking forgiveness, and of making restitution is embarrassing and even costly (if you have to fix / reinstate something) but it is an **absolutely essential part of the process**.

It is, for this reason, that the **peace offering is put into place so that we can show the world and GOD (YHVH) that we are at a place of rest ... would it not be wonderful if we could stay in this state permanently? Surely that is our goal as priests in the Living Tabernacle ... our desire to be pure and holy.**

Luke 3:8 *Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.*

As soon as we are sons / daughters living with integrity and with a desire to please GOD (YHVH), then only, although we may slip from time to time (or that we may be challenged to fall back into old habits), we will find the Holy Spirit comes to help us make the correct decision.

This passage states that it is not about being saved / in the lineage of Abraham, but it is about being a living example of GOD (YHVH)'s Light and Glory wherever we go. There must be fruit; there must be actions of loving my neighbour.

Romans 8:26-30 Similarly, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we don't know how to pray the way we should. **But the Spirit Himself pleads on our behalf with groanings too deep for words; and the One who searches hearts knows exactly what the Spirit is thinking, because his pleadings for God's people accord with God's will.** Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with His purpose; because those whom He knew in advance, He also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of His Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers; and those whom He thus determined in advance, He also called; and those whom He called, He also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom He caused to be considered righteous He also glorified!

CLEAN / UNCLEAN

Paul tells us that we are to present our bodies as an acceptable sacrifice.



In the past, this means that we substitute the animal for our own ego / desires / ambition. But now we have to lay down a circumcised heart / soul and mind.

We cannot use words to try to appease GOD (YHVH), knowing full well that we have no intention to change. That will never be considered as a sacrifice. It was this type of offering / tithe / Feast that GOD (YHVH) said *"I cannot stomach this hypocrisy."*

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

There is a reason for this. Y'shua has paid the full price. We merely have to submit our free will and mind and then decide to walk in the paths that He sets out for us. We call this the circumcision of the heart.

Colossians 1:22 He has now reconciled in His **Body** of flesh by His death, in order to **present** you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.

And it is at this point that it's best to return to the portion and try to understand *the reason for the sacrifice*. You see, we as human beings are **moving from the status of CLEAN to UNCLEAN and back again, all the time.**

The status of unclean *occurs any time* there is bitterness, malice, hatred etc. in our lives and this applies to **actions** that are either overtly or covertly done. If we repent (**offer a sacrifice**) and walk in forgiveness, as well as doing acts of loving-kindness to our neighbour, then we will be **restored** to the status of cleanness.

Any act of bitterness, however small that remain standing, will cause your status to remain "unclean". The status of being unclean / impure means that you cannot enter the area of the Tabernacle at all. Effectively, you are no longer a priest until you make the sacrifice and repent.

GOD (YHVH) DEEMS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS AS CRITICAL TO THE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

One may think that these stories about the sacrifices are **only about restoring our relationship with Him**. However, once again, it seems that GOD (YHVH) wants to bring to us the importance of our community life, the necessity of the "love your neighbour" part in this relationship with Him.

It seems that we cannot separate these two Commandments. You will recall the story of the Good Samaritan. The young man wanted desperately to **reduce this circle of responsibility to the very minimum.**

Luke 10:25-37 *An expert in Torah stood up to try and trap him by asking, "Rabbi, what should I do to obtain eternal life?" ²⁶But Y'shua said to him, "What is written in the Torah? How do you read it?" ²⁷He answered, "You are to love ADONAI your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your understanding; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸"That's the right answer," Y'shua said. "Do this, and you will have life." ²⁹But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Y'shua, "And who is my 'neighbor'?" ³⁰Taking up the question, Y'shua said: "A man was going down from Yerushalayim to Yericho when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him naked and beat him up, then went off, leaving him half dead. ³¹By coincidence, a cohen was going down on that road; but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²Likewise a Levi who reached the place and saw him also passed by on the other side. ³³"But a man from Shomron who was traveling came upon him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴So he went up to him, put oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he set him on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day, he took out two days' wages, gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Look after him; and if you spend more than this, I'll pay you back when I return.' ³⁶Of these three, which one seems to you to have become the 'neighbor' of the man who fell among robbers?" ³⁷He answered, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Y'shua said to him, "You go and do as he did."*

Y'shua makes sure that we understand that loving the community is a broad issue. Any action that we take to harm people, to reduce the value in society, to speak negatively about them and even to go so far as to engage in acts of anti-Semitism, is equal to NOT loving my neighbour.

We cannot be at rest with GOD (YHVH), if we are at war with our neighbours!

Note the connection ... **We sin against GOD (YHVH) by dealing falsely with the neighbour.** In order to make sure that we understand how unhappy GOD (YHVH) is with us if we treat our neighbour badly, we are expected to reimburse them their loss as well as an additional 20% penalty.

Leviticus 5:20-26 ADONAI said to Moshe, “If someone sins and acts perversely against ADONAI by dealing falsely with his neighbor in regard to a deposit or security entrusted to him, by stealing from him, by extorting him, or by dealing falsely in regard to a lost object he has found, or by swearing to a lie — if a person commits any of these sins, then, if he sinned and is guilty, he is to restore whatever it was he stole or obtained by extortion, or whatever was deposited with him, or the lost object which he found, or anything about which he has sworn falsely. **He is to restore it in full plus an additional one-fifth; he must return it to the person who owns it, on the day when he presents his guilt offering. He is to bring as his guilt offering to ADONAI a ram without defect from the flock, or its equivalent according to your appraisal, to the cohen; it is a guilt offering. Thus the cohen will make atonement for him before ADONAI, and he will be forgiven in regard to whatever it was he did that made him guilty.**

WE SHOULD NOT THINK THAT LEADERS ARE IMMUNE TO SIN

GOD (YHVH) wants us to understand that anyone, irrespective of their standing in the community or the position in the family, can make mistakes. Of real significance is that the process for restitution and reinstatement **in righteousness applies to all equally.**

There is **no system** that says we can deal with a problem in one way for the average man, and in another way for a leader. So when a leader fails to recognize the seriousness of his own mistakes, but more importantly the impact of his ways in the community, we have “double trouble”. The role model effect is very dramatic and sets the stage for others to copy it with no sense of remorse.

Leviticus 4:22-24 When a leader sins and inadvertently does something against any of the mitzvot of ADONAI concerning things which should not be done, he is guilty. If the sin which he committed becomes known to him, he is to bring as his offering a male goat without defect, lay his hand on the goat's head and slaughter it in the place where they slaughter the burnt offering in the presence of ADONAI; it is a sin offering.

HAFTORAH



The Haftorah describes a sad state of affairs. It describes a people who have turned away from GOD (YHVH), who worship at pagan altars, but who still brings sacrifices as an empty ritual.

It is easy to think that we do not worship idols, but are we truly free from dependence on our work / business / sport / politics, etc? Do we not make these objects a pagan system?

How many of us are walking in absolute honesty and transparency with regard to our interpretation of the Bible ... how many of us are listening directly to GOD (YHVH) and how many are following the traditions and teaching of man?

All of these can be idols and all of our sacrifices can be ritual.

We need to circumcise our hearts daily.



WHAT SACRIFICES ARE GOOD?

- ◆ Every act of love towards my neighbour.
- ◆ Every time that I make a stand against injustice.
- ◆ Every time I show mercy and compassion.

I am making a sacrifice continuously. It does not have to be huge ... just regular every day ordinary events.

Hebrews 13:13-16* Therefore, let us go out to Him who is **outside the camp** and share His disgrace. For we have no permanent city here; on the contrary, we seek the one to come. **Through Him, therefore, let us offer God a sacrifice of praise continually. For this is the natural product of lips that acknowledge His Name.** ¹⁶**But don't forget doing good and sharing with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

AND since we are now about to enter the Tabernacle in the Third Heavens, make sure that the WORD is written on your heart and that our bodies are washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:21-25 We also have a Great Cohen over God's household. Therefore, let us approach the Holiest Place with a sincere heart, in the full assurance that comes from trusting — with our hearts **sprinkled clean** from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with **pure water**. Let us continue holding fast to the hope we acknowledge, without wavering; for the One who made the promise is trustworthy. And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds, not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other.

And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching. AND at this time, I would like us to go back once more to the portion ... to have a look at the words that describe the grain offering.

We need;

- ◆ Grain
- ◆ Olive oil
- ◆ Frankincense and
- ◆ Salt



As you can see, these are all physical elements. Although we have a need to use these things, the “THINGS” ARE NOT THE GOAL.

You see it says → to these things, we need to add FIRE.

Fire speaks of the process of purifying as well as the process of transforming that which is physical and that which is SPIRITUAL. Fire turns these things into smoke that rises. First fruit offerings ... the very best of the harvest that we have becomes a FRAGRANCE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE to GOD (YHVH).

Leviticus 2:9 The cohen is to remove the reminder portion of the grain offering and make it go up in smoke on the altar as an offering made by fire, a fragrant aroma for ADONAI. very good deed, done with pure heart, turns into the fruit of the Holy Spirit, This fruit offered as a sacrifice, becomes the fragrance that Y'shua the Great High Priest will offer up to YHVH.

A QUESTION ... Are there witnesses who will testify to the quality of the fruit that you bring as a sacrifice daily?



Priestly Blessing

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.”

Numbers 6:24-27

Shalom!!