

Parashat Shemini- Actions That Have Consequences

WWW.NETZARIMANTOECIE.COM



**Shemini-
Actions that
have
Consequences**

Vayiqra [Leviticus]
9:1- 11:47

Torah: [Vayiqra \[Leviticus\] 9:1- 11:47](#), Haftarah: [Shemuel Beyth \[2 Samuel\] 6:1-19](#),
Netzarim Ketuvim: [Ivri'im \[Hebrews\] 8:1-6](#)

Introduction:

Our Torah reading for this week is Shemini meaning the 8th. Often thought of as new beginnings.

WWW.NETZARIMANTOECIE.COM



**Eighth Day-
New Beginnings**

Eight is a unique number since we know circumcision [the Brit Milah] was performed then as with Yeshua.

Our reading opens on the eighth day after last week's inauguration of the **Mishkan** [the Tabernacle] and purification of the **Priesthood** with the Priests anointed and remaining 7 days in the Mishkan.



This day however becomes something very important to teach us about our actions before YHWH in His presence which in a sense our lives are lived, but not more than what we come to experience in the lives of the Priesthood & the people of Yisrael on this unique day and that is our lesson for this week. May we always gain greater understanding in the stories that we come to read and apply them to our lives before YHWH.

Summary of Our Reading:

1. Aharon offers various offerings on the 8th day with the esteem of YHWH descending.
2. The fire of YHWH consumes the offerings with the son's of Aharon consumed as well with Aharon not permitted to mourn.
3. Mosheh gives further instructions to the Priesthood concerning consumption of the sacrifices.
4. YHWH now gives specific instructions concerned with the Kosher Commandments.
5. Details are also given about items ritually impure & impurity by incorrect slaughtering & prohibitions concerned with consumption of insects & reptiles.

6. Finally, an exhortation is given to be Holy through consumption of Kosher foods.

A Most Awesome Experience:



This 8th day after all the inauguration & purification during these last 7 days begins with Mosheh instructing Aharon & his sons to offer up **the Olah** [Ascending offerings/Burnt offerings] before YHWH & the various offerings for the people that they might draw near & stand before YHWH their Elohim. Mosheh had said that when they do these the Esteem or glory of

YHWH would appear. After all these had been performed Mosheh & Aharon came out of the Mishkan & blessed the people. When all this was completed a most awesome sight occurred.



The mighty esteem of YHWH descended upon the Mishkan with **the fire** of YHWH erupting

out of his presence to consume the **Olah Offering** [the burnt offering] and the **fat** on the Altar.



The Might & awesomeness of the scene so overwhelmed the people that they shouted in terror & fell facedown on the ground so great was this scene before them.



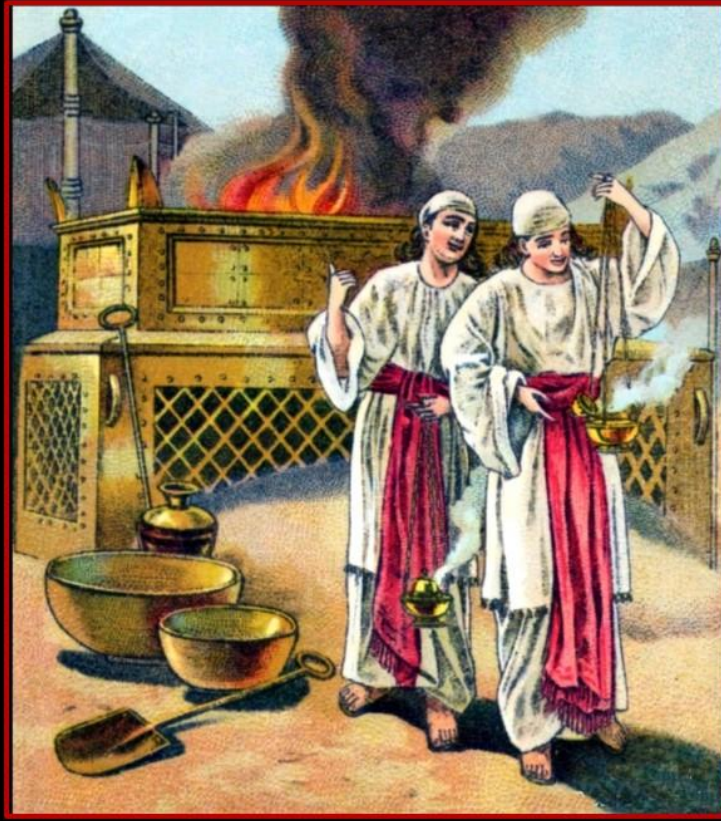
I do wonder firstly also at the sight of **Yeshua's crucifixion** when in the middle of the day darkness fell & when He gave up his spirit saying it was finished and an Earthquake shook the land. This was when YHWH had accepted His sacrifice and surely all those who experienced that must have been shaken to their core as well.



The Priests too in the Temple when they were in preparation for the **Pesach** [Passover] and the Curtain was torn in two must have been in shock. Both these experiences surely revealed the might & great esteem of the Almighty to cause us to desire to live this life in Holiness to which He has called us.

The Fatal Mistake of the Sons of Aharon:

On this same day after such an experience we now come to another scene. Nadav & Avihu in their passion with commentators suggesting they were intoxicated based on YHWH's instructions that directly follow thought they must bring the incense into the Holy of Holies before YHWH.



**Nadav &
Avihu bring
Strange Fire**

Though these brothers were great men, they overestimated themselves. They should not have decided on such an important issue without first consulting Moses. They may have thought to themselves that they were the eldest sons of Aharon & the next generation of leaders and believed they could show what true Holiness looked like.

It is quite possible that all these miscalculations & self-righteous attitude may in itself be referred to as **“bringing Strange Fire to Elohim.”** YHWH held His future leaders to much stricter standards as He does leaders today since we read this in:



Yaacov [James] 3:1
**My brethren, let
not many of you
become teachers,
knowing that we
shall receive a
stricter judgment.**

Fire Descends from the YHWH



It is at their actions that beams of fire descended from the Heavens & consumed them after which Mosheh restrained Aharon by declaring that those who come before YHWH He must regard as Holy. I hope this becomes a sobering thought for us too lest we become just like these two men. Just think of this! Mosheh now calls their cousins who were Levites to carry their bodies by their tunics out of the Camp and with no further thought continues with the proceedings. Mosheh also quickly warns the other sons not to uncover their heads nor tear their garments a sign of mourning lest they be consumed since the Holy Oil was upon them & they were not to depart from the Sanctuary. How hard would this have been? However, they were in the Holy Place where the Glory resided and as representatives of the people their actions could cause the wrath of Elohim to fall upon the people.

The Kosher Instructions



After this incident we suddenly come to read all the instructions from YHWH concerned with being **Set-apart** [Holy] for one who comes before YHWH. These instructions are difficult for many who see food as being unspiritual but since these are given by YHWH should we not endeavour to adhere to them in our time. We know the usual argument which comes from verses like:



Yahuchanan Mosheh [Mark]

7:18-20 So Yeshua said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters a man from outside cannot spiritually defile him, **19** because it does not enter his heart but rather

into his stomach, and is eliminated?" **20** And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

Many translations have however an addition which I am sure is a translator's addition being **"thus, purifying all foods"** since we know that Yeshua also said this in:



MatithYahu [Matthew] 5:17 Think not that I have come to destroy the Torah or the Prophets: I have not come to destroy it, but to reveal its full intended meaning. **HTHS**

Many see this as fulfilling the law that they no longer need too, but neglecting further reading where Yeshua says this in:



MatithYahu [Matthew] 5:19 Whoever shall break one of the least of these commandments, and shall teach men to do so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of heaven but whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called Great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We have often heard the saying **“You are what you eat”** so could this in any way reveal that YHWH the Elohim of all the Earth knows better than us because long before man knew anything of Science, He gave us instructions to set us apart before Him. It is interesting that the forbidden foods are for animals with a particular lifestyle who are **dirty, scavengers or Carnivores** which is not a model Elohim wants for us.

An interesting truth is this! Zoologists have identified over 5,000 different species of mammals but only one, the Pig, has split hooves and doesn't chew the cud. Surely Mosheh was unfamiliar with every corner of the Earth so surely our instructions come from a much higher source.



In the heyday of the Bible Critics, they actually sent an expedition to Australia to find another species and disprove the Bible. Having observed the **kangaroo, koala bear, and the duck-billed platypus**, researchers still couldn't find a split-hoofed animal that didn't chew its cud.

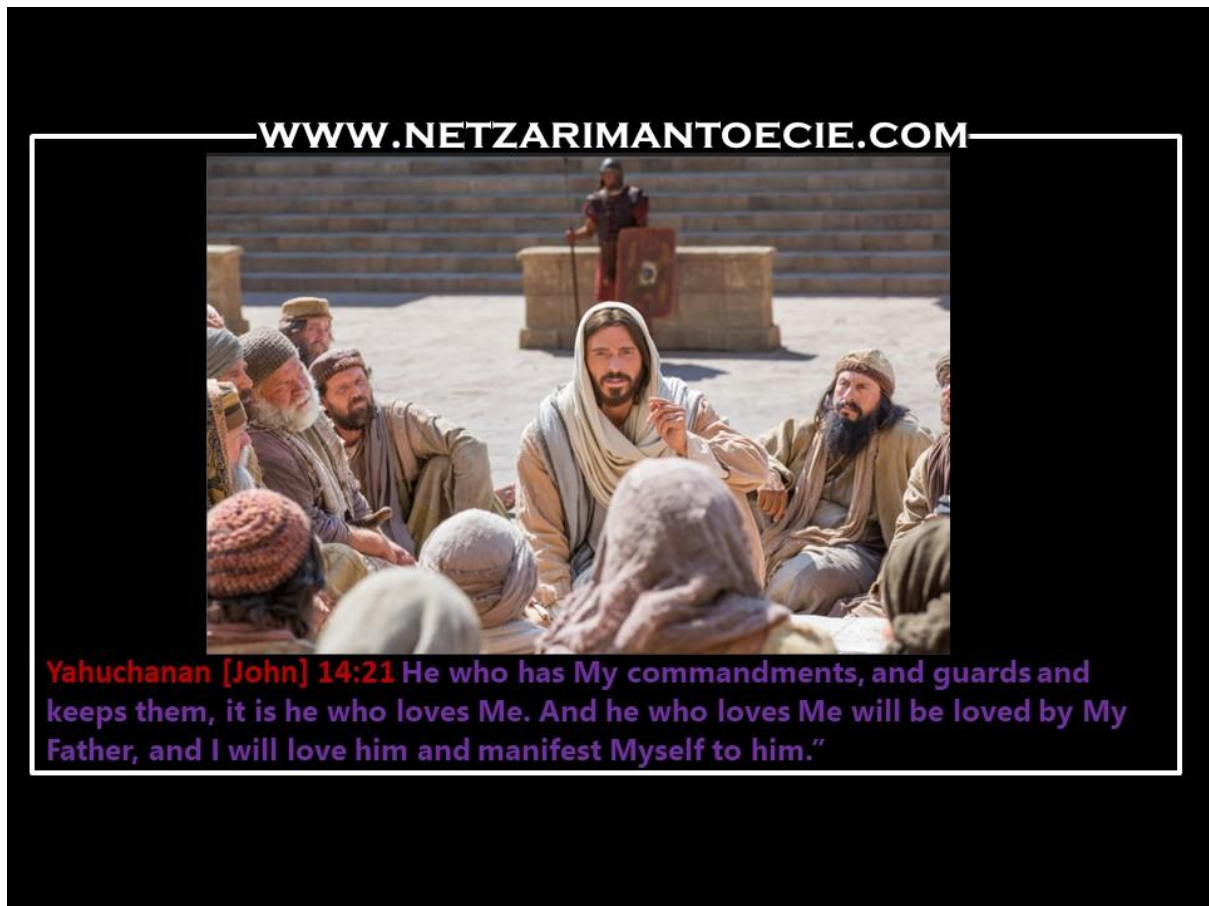
Our Concluding Thoughts:

The reading of Shemini I hope comes to show us just how absolutely essential are the details & instructions of YHWH that bring blessings but also that failure to follow His Holy instructions may lead to a catastrophe as we have read here. Even more profound than that however is that YHWH have given us a very practical way that we can demonstrate how vital He is to us in that we are able in our most mundane lives to show our set-apartness in our

ongoing journey of Sanctification in the simple act of eating foods prescribed by Him. It surely reminds us of what Yeshua says in:

Luka [לוקא] Ben Manahem [Luke] 12:23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

In our desire to be pleasing unto our Master & Elohim I hope that we do not look to the supernatural or dazzling encounters, for our spiritual life can not always be on a high, however we need our hearts to remain steadfast even when there seems to be little fire. May we always remain resolute to obey YHWH in the minor things which keep our hearts in check. Yeshua then shows us how this can be achieved in love through these words in:



Yahuchanan [John] 14:21 He who has My commandments, and guards and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

May the truth of these words never fail to inspire & fill us all with the joy of the one who called us into His glorious light.

Haftarah: Shemuel Beyth [2 Samuel] 6:1-19



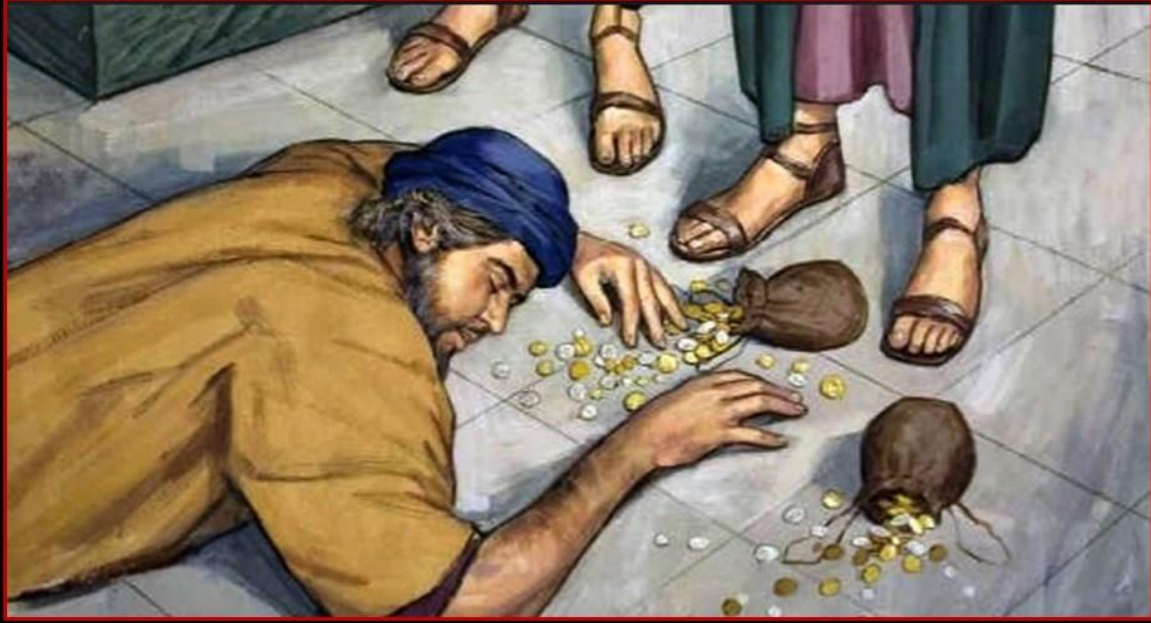
The Ark of the Covenant had been taken by the Philistines but forcibly returned to Yisrael & the men of Kiryath Yearim had taken it in 1 Sh'muel [Samuel] 6 and now David with great enthusiasm much like that of the sons of Aharon in this week's haftarah reading decides to bring the Ark of the Covenant representing the great esteem of YHWH to Yerushalayim so it was being transported on a new cart drawn by Oxen from a town called Kiryath Yearim to Yerushalayim. However according to the Torah, the Sacred Ark was to be carried by the sons of Kohath using the poles prescribed in the Torah. However, Uzzah violated the Torah of YHWH by touching the Ark which resulted in him being struck by YHWH and he died. The commands formerly given in the Torah were always a means of preserving the sense of the exceeding Holiness of YHWH & the fear of drawing near to him without the appropriate preparation. David and his entire assembly had neglected the Torah instructions just as the sons of Aaron, Nadav & Avihu had and so Uzzah was also struck by YHWH over his disobedience of the most sacred instructions of YHWH. Our reading truly shows that great enthusiasm & love for YHWH does in no way excuse disobedience to the divine word. This must always be maintained to hold YHWH in the greatest of Esteem.

Netzarim Ketuvim: Massey Ha Shiliychiym [Acts of the Apostles] 5:1-10



The theme of our reading is much like our other readings in that it represents a strange offering brought before the Lord in that the intent of the offering was not concerned with the Esteem of the Almighty in sacrifice. In truth Ananias wanted to impress others with his spirituality by lying about the offering he brought before the congregation & conspiring with his wife. This came about by the respect given one named Barnabi [Barnabas] whose name was Yoseph a Levite who sold property in accordance with Torah & laid the sum at the Apostle's feet. Therefore, Ananias devised this plan to lie, being a gross sin against the **Ruach Ha Kodesh** [the Holy Spirit] and reveals to us that Hypocrisy is not to be tolerated in the Assembly of the faithful and it is seen as strange fire and was dealt with in the same way as we saw in the Torah.

Ananias Struck Dead by the Power of the Holy Spirit



The effect of their deaths however, from this terrifying sign was that great fear came upon the Assembly like the awe that fell upon the congregation in our Torah but from this awe many believers were added to the Assembly to the praise of Elohim & the Master Yeshua.

Conversely, some today present our Heavenly Father as an Elohim [God] of love without justice—a liberal, lenient Elohim [God] who will always give us what we ask and never holds us accountable for our wrong actions. Such sentimental views of the love of Elohim [God] are out of step with the Word of Elohim [God].

May we never lose that Awe that comes from knowing that the Ruach, the Spirit of Elohim dwells in us and that defiling His Mishkan [temple] our bodies can lead to dire consequences & that calling oneself a believer must come with great honour towards the Almighty & never be taken lightly.

Amein! Shavua Tov Aleykhem [A good week unto you]