

TETZAVEH - You Shall Command



Exodus 27:20 - 30:10

From the same root as תצוה - we have the word *mitzvah* - מצוה, which in modern Hebrew means a good deed one performs in obedience to, or in accord with, a command or desire of God. Modern Orthodox Judaism holds that to live a life pleasing to God our Father, one should live a life of “Torah and *mitzvot*” - תורה ומצוות - a life of studying His Word/teachings and doing what one learns through deeds that are good.

The focus of last week’s *parasha* was the building of God’s House, *Beit El* - בית אל, the Tabernacle, *HaMishkan* - המשכן. This week the focus shifts to Aaron, *Aharon* - אהרן, whom God has appointed to be High Priest, *Kohen HaGadol* - כהן הגדול. Moshe is the prophet and teacher of God’s Torah, and the undisputed leader. Aharon is the High Priest and serves God in the Tabernacle.

1. *Moshe, hu ha'navi ve'moreh Torah.* משה הוא הנבא ומורה תורה
2. *Aharon, hu Kohen HaGadol ve'eved HaShem b'Mishkan.* אהרן הוא כוהן הגדול ועבד השם במשכן.

The role of the High Priest was one of honor, *kavod* - כבוד, and he was resplendent in his beautiful and colorful holy garments, *begdei kodesh* - בגדי קודש.

PRAYER - TEFILLAH - תפילה To pray - *le'hitpalel* - להיתפלל Root - ל, ל - פ

A beautiful prayer in the *Siddur*, סידור - Jewish Prayer Book, is prayed on Festival days after the *haftarah* (section from the prophets read after the weekly *parasha*) called *Yah Eli*. This paragraph describes how His Tabernacle is connected with the heart.

The Lord of Hosts, with many wonders, He joined all His Tent
 Making all blossom in ways of the heart: The Rock, perfect is His work.

<i>Adon Tz'vaot, be'rov pla'ot</i>	אדון צבאות, ברב פלאות
<i>Chiber kol Ohalo</i>	חבר כל אהלו
<i>B'netivot lev liv'lav</i>	בנתיבות לב, לבלב
<i>Ha'Tzur, tamim po'alo.</i>	הצור, תמים פאלו

* Taken from *The Koren Siddur*, with translation and commentary by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.



is at the heart of it all. The beginning and end of God's Torah. 1 Cor. 13 - I can do all kinds of wondrous things but if I have not love, it is as nothing.

Root - ל, ל, ל, פ, means to judge, clarify or to decide. Prayer is a decision. We need to pray according to our judgment of a situation and it is important to clarify what is true and important, and appropriate. The Artsroll *Siddur* describes: "Prayer is the soul's yearning to define what truly matters."

Aaron had a heart of love and peace. He is known as one who was a *tirdof Shalom* - a pursuer of peace among people that was a reflection of, and in harmony with, the heart and love of God. His daily tasks in the Holy Place of the *Mishkan* were to light the lamps of the menorah, which represented the eternal light of the Word of God, and to burn fragrant incense on the Altar of Incense. The one a gift of the radiance and glory of God Himself to His people and the other a symbol of our response in prayer that is as a sweet fragrance to Him.

1. He placed only pure olive oil in the menorah. *Hu samah rak shemen zayit zan ba'menorah.*

הוא שמח רק שמן זית זך במנורה.

2. He placed holy spices on the Altar of Incense. *Hu samah b'sammim al Mizbe'ach Ha'Ketoret.*

הוא שמח בשמים על המזבח הקטרת.

VOCABULARY - MILIM CHADASHOT

CLOTHES - BEGADIM

shirt / blouse	<i>chultzah</i>	חֻלְצָה
pants / trousers	<i>michnasai'im</i>	מְכַנְסִים
dress	<i>simlah</i>	שִׁמְלָה
underwear	<i>tachtonim</i>	תַּחְתּוֹנִים
socks	<i>garbai'im</i>	גַּרְבִּים
shoes	<i>na'alai'im</i>	נְעָלִים
boots	<i>mag'afai'im</i>	מַגְפִּים
sandals	<i>sandalim</i>	סַנְדָּלִים
coat	<i>me'il</i>	מְעִיל
scarf	<i>tza'if</i>	צֵעִיר