



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Book of Vayikra deals primarily with the laws of the Temple service, especially that of the offerings. These offerings were imbued with a great power to bring atonement and national security. The rationale for the particular procedures and root of the offerings' potency transcend human comprehension - they are of the Divine. There are, however, many lessons to be derived from the verses that describe the Temple service. A recurring and prominent theme is that the anticipated closeness between man and G-d that the offerings would induce were not a product of man providing G-d with lavish and expensive "gifts," but rather a product of the person's pureness and sincerity of heart. This principle is illustrated by the offering of the impoverished man who could only afford to bring an offering of flour. It is only here that the Torah refers to one who brings an offering as a "nefesh," a "soul." The Talmud tells us that G-d, seeing the poor man's humility and self-sacrifice to bring even this simple offering, says, "I consider it as if you offered your very soul." The offerings were not a way to propitiate G-d with our possessions, but rather as a means to draw close with our heart and soul.

Perhaps it is because of this symbolism that, when we pray for the restoration of the Temple at the conclusion of the Amidah, the simple flour offering is specified - "May it be Your will...that the Temple be rebuilt speedily in our days ... Then the flour offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to G-d, like the days of yore."

While we no longer have the Temple and its inspiring service, we still have our own hearts to offer to G-d, in purity and sincerity.

Have a great Shabbos,

Rabbi Menachem Winter

If you would like to sign up to receive the weekly "Shabbos Delights" by email, please send an email to info@gwckollel.org.

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And if one's offering is from the flock ... a satisfying aroma to Hashem (1:10 & 13).

If one's offering to Hashem is an offering of fowl ... a satisfying aroma to Hashem (1:14 & 17).

The same terminology – “a satisfying aroma to Hashem” – in regard to both sacrifices – animal and fowl – teaches that whether one brings a lot or a little, it has the same value to Hashem, as long as the person has the intention of serving Hashem (Menachos 110a).

The Taz asks (Orach Chaim 1:3) the following: if one person brings a lot, but without the proper intentions, and one person would bring a little with the proper intentions, we could evaluate the little with proper intention as more valuable. However, in this case both brought a korban with proper intentions. Wouldn't the size of the korban make a difference to Hashem?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Where in this parsha is the source for what we call “The pintele Yid” / the secret spark within every Jew?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

During the month of Kislev, a miracle occurred for Bnai Yisrael and the holiday of Chanuka is celebrated. Why did this month merit these two events?

Answer: The Mishkan was completed in Kislev, and Hashem made Bnai Yisrael wait to erect it until Nisan. To compensate the month of Kislev, Hashem gave it Chanuka.

TIMELESS WISDOM

When a soul offers a meal-offering to Hashem... (2:1)

It does not say "soul" by any offering except the meal-offering. Who normally offers a meal-offering? A poor man. The Holy One says "I consider it as if he offered his soul" (Rashi).

It was only a few days before Passover when a man entered the home of Rabbi Yosef Dov HaLevi Soleveitchik of Brisk, known as the Bais Halevi. The man had a look of consternation on his face. "Rabbi he pleaded. I have a very difficult question. Is one allowed to fulfill his obligation of the four cups of wine with milk?" The Bais Halevi looked up at the man and began to think. "That," he said, "is a very difficult question. I will look into the matter. But until then, I will provide you with money in order for you to purchase four cups of wine."

The Bais Halevi then took out a large sum of money, far more than necessary for a few bottles of wine, and handed it to the man. One of the Rav's attendants was perplexed at the exorbitant amount of money that was given to the man. He asked "I, too, understood from the man's question that he needed to buy wine for the seder and could not afford more than the milk he was able to get from his cow. But why did you give him so much more than necessary?"

Rabbi Soleveitchik responded "That is exactly the point! If a man asks if he can fulfill his obligation of the four cups of wine with milk, then obviously he does not have meat or fowl. So not only did I give him money for wine, I gave him money for a meat as well!"

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was not born.
2. I could not steal.
3. I am named for my source.
4. I was a person.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am not a lien.
2. I am for a korban.
3. I do not give you the title Rabbi.
4. Use all your weight.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Machatzis HaShekel (I was used for counting; I prevented plague; I did not have a plug yet I was for the socket; I am for Taanis Esther.)

#2 Y'hei noam ... (I was said by Moshe; I am the blessing for the Mishkan; I am said on Motzei Shabbos; I am for Krias Shema.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Yaakov Baars

To see the complete list of those who answered correctly, visit the Kollel website.

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

win a

\$50 gift certificate to

MAX'S CAFE

Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The next raffle will be March 25th.

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Kollel invites the community to the Yeshivas Mordechai HaTzaddik Father-Son Learning on Purim morning, for learning, raffles, and refreshments, in two locations:

At the Kollel
10900 Lockwood Drive
Following the 8:00 Minyan
(approximately 9:45)



At Young Israel Ezras Israel Potomac
11618 Seven Locks Road
Following the 8:00 Minyan
(approximately 9:45)