

While praying:

*God sustains His creation and can be known by His creation.

*The world is at odds with God; they may stand up against God, but in the end they will not win. How could anyone think they can stand up to the creator?

*God is mighty and powerful. Mankind thinks they are powerful, but it is only a show of power compared to the true power.

*Stand together against the devil and those who hate God (We are in a spiritual battle – those who hate God want us to follow their sinful ways. "Haters of God; they are insolent, arrogant and boastful; they plan evil schemes. ... Yet not only do they keep doing them, but they applaud others who do the same;" Romans 1:30, 32 CJB)

Tetzaveh means, "you shall command." The portion begins by saying that that were to make pure olive oil for the menorah and to keep it burning continually in the tent of meeting. They would use only the first drops from the olive – the clear oil. Aharon and his sons and descendants are to be the only consecrated priests for the Lord to do the ceremonies at the Mishkan (the Tent of Meeting in the desert) and later at the Temple.

Specific instructions for the priestly garments and how they are to anoint Aaron and his sons were given. The special garments were to be made for them which includes a breastplate, vest, a blue robe, tunic, turban, and a sash. The Jewish writings says they were to put the urim and the tumim in the breastplate for making decisions. The stones represented the 12 tribes of Israel and the shekinah glory would shine on the different stones spelling out an answer. The priests went barefoot as a sign of humility.¹

The priest who did the ceremonies should not be confused with all the people of Israel being priests to others and serving them. "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation;" Exodus 9:6 NKJV. Those that believe in the Messiah are also to be priestly servants for God. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;" 1 Peter 2:9 NKJV.

There would be bells on the bottom of the robe² and they were to wear linen undergarments. The process of consecration is given with their dress, sacrifices, and rituals and the priests' consecration is to take 7 days with the final dedication and sacrifice on the eighth day. The altar is especially holy and whatever touches it will be holy. Through all their generations they will have burnt offerings and God would speak to them at the Mishkan. Aharon and his sons will be consecrated by God's glory. God will then live with His people.

They were to build an altar to bring incense every morning and also when Aharon lights the lamps at dusk. They would keep the menorah burning by leaving the one to the west burning while taking care of the others.³ The incense represented the prayers of the people. "Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God's people;" Revelation 5:8 CJB. Also, God sees believers who endeavor to live a holy life and follow His commandments as, "For to God we are the aroma of the Messiah;" 2 Corinthians 2:15 CJB. They were not to make any unauthorized offering or incense. Atonement for sin would be made once a year.

¹ <https://hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Parashah/Summaries/Tetzaveh/tetzaveh.html>

² Bells were to remind people to pray for the Priest.

<https://hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Parashah/Summaries/Tetzaveh/tetzaveh.html>

³ <https://hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Parashah/Summaries/Tetzaveh/tetzaveh.html>

On Yom Kippur (the day of forgiveness of sins – also called the Day of Atonement) they would sprinkle blood onto the east side of the Ark and also 7 times before the Ark (Leviticus 16:14). They would burn the innards, but the rest of the sacrifice was to be burned outside the camp.⁴ The book of Hebrews talks about this and it sees that the Yom Kippur sacrifice as a direct correlation to Yeshua. "We have an altar from which those who serve in the Tent are not permitted to eat. For the cohen hagadol brings the blood of animals into the Holiest Place as a sin offering, but their bodies are burned outside the camp. So too Yeshua suffered death outside the gate, in order to make the people holy through his own blood;" Hebrews 13:10-12 CJB.

We see in this portion specific instructions about the menorah, the Cohens' apparel, and the consecration of the Cohens. It should again remind us that we are to worship God in the way He chooses. God has chosen the line of Aharon to be priests. This points us to accepting who God chose as the Messiah, namely Yeshua. Just as Aharon was picked to be the father of all priests, Yeshua is God's chosen Messiah and our priest who we must accept and follow. The specific priestly apparel probably is a shadow picture of the glorious position of Yeshua who came as our glorious High Priest and Messiah.

Yeshua is now our high priest in this messianic age. "Yeshua became a cohen by the oath which God swore;" Hebrews 7:21 CJB. Then in Psalms it says, "You are a cohen forever, to be compared with Malki-Tzedek;" Psalm 110:4 CJB. Talking about Yeshua, "Because he lives forever, his position as cohen does not pass on to someone else; and consequently, he is totally able to deliver those who approach God through him; since he is alive forever and thus forever able to intercede on their behalf;" Hebrews 7:24-25 CJB. Therefore, it is through Yeshua that our sins are forgiven. Yochanan (John) said, "The blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin. ... If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing;" 1 John 1:7,9 CJB.

Just as God's presence was there in the Mishkan as the priests ministered, Yeshua was the presence of God on earth when He came to minister to mankind. Yochanan (John) said that Yeshua "tabernacled" or "tented" among us. He is probably referring to Yeshua being like the presence of God which was at the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting in the desert). In John 1:14, the CJB translates the word for tented as lived. Very simply, Yeshua was the presence of God while He was here on earth. The gate of the Mishkan faced east and when Yeshua returns He will come from the east.

It amazes me all the detailed directions from God on how to build the Mishkan and how the priests were to dress. God had given Israel so much and there is so much to God's creation. Did you know there are about 40,000 different types of spiders in the world?⁵ I wonder who did all the counting. It is truly amazing! God is limitless in His creative ability. He created everything and He sustains the world. It is not true that God created the world and it just keeps going on its own. That concept is not biblical.

There used to be a radio show years ago on Christian radio where the person narrating the show would talk about all the complexities of God's creation. It was a very good demonstration of how creation had to come about by design. Even a lot of scientists believe everything just couldn't have happened by accident. Shaul (Paul) says that we can know that God exists simply by what God has created. "For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities - both his eternal power and his divine nature - have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made;" Romans 1:20 CJB.

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur, under Temple Service.

⁵ <https://www.livescience.com/22122-types-of-spiders.html>.

Sometimes I get asked the question, "What will happen to the people who haven't heard about God?" If we truly look at all creation and all its complexity, we would have to conclude that there is a God and He created the world and everything in it. Shaul goes on to say in Romans, "Therefore, they have no excuse; because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him. On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened. Claiming to be wise, they have become fools!" Romans 1:20b-22 CJB.

The world that we know is at odds with God. People can stand up against God and that is their choice. What I can't understand sometimes is how can people be so misguided? They think that what we see is all there is, but that is not true. Shaul goes on to say that these people are delusional – living in a fantasy world. I once watched a movie where one of the characters was delusional. While watching this person in the movie, one probably thought how sick they were in their mind.

That is what it is like to for those who decide not to seek God. They are actually in a world of their own we could say. Shaul talks about this more. Romans 1:25-32:

"They have exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, by worshipping and serving created things, rather than the Creator - praised be he forever. Amen. This is why God has given them up to degrading passions; so that their women exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural; and likewise the men, giving up natural relations with the opposite sex, burn with passion for one another, men committing shameful acts with other men and receiving in their own persons the penalty appropriate to their perversion. In other words, since they have not considered God worth knowing, God has given them up to worthless ways of thinking; so that they do improper things. They are filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and vice; stuffed with jealousy, murder, quarrelling, dishonesty and ill-will; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God; they are insolent, arrogant and boastful; they plan evil schemes; they disobey their parents; they are brainless, faithless, heartless and ruthless. They know well enough God's righteous decree that people who do such things deserve to die; yet not only do they keep doing them, but they applaud others who do the same."

Shaul says they are "brainless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless." Think about it; a person with no qualms or sense of values – what keeps them from doing just about anything? They think you are wonderful if you go along with them and they'll take you to everlasting fire with them. Unfortunately for them, they may think they are smart, but the Bible says they are not. How could anyone who is so far off from living right think they have it all together? I'm glad I believe in a good God who will win out in the end no matter what these people do. The Bible says they commit shameful acts. Don't be deluded into thinking that it is okay to do anything you want to do.

Judah (Jude) said, "And the angels that did not keep within their original authority, but abandoned their proper sphere, he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for the Judgment of the Great Day. And S'dom, 'Amora and the surrounding cities, following a pattern like theirs, committing sexual sins and perversions, lie exposed as a warning of the everlasting fire awaiting those who must undergo punishment;" Jude 1:6-7 CJB. The cities that were destroyed by God for their sin, Sodom and Gomorrah, are still there today as a witness; and you can actually go see it. You're probably thinking you didn't expect this. People need to be warned no matter how this sounds. How could anyone think they can stand up to the creator. They are delusional.

People may beat their chest and say how wonderful they are and how wonderful what man has done, but they are still not the creator God. Think about it. Can man move mountains or earth size pieces of rock into orbit? Psalm 95:4-5 CJB says about God, "He holds the depths of the earth in his hands; the mountain

peaks too belong to him. The sea is his - he made it - and his hands shaped the dry land." The Bible uses a figure of speech to help us understand how mighty God is. He doesn't even need to shape the land; He can just command the land to do what He says. After all, God said, "'let there be light' and there was light;" Genesis 1:3 CJB.

God had given Israel freedom from the idolatrous Egyptians and provided all they needed to survive in the desert. We're not talking about a handful of people, but some estimate there were about 2,000,000 people God provided for. I wonder if even a single nation on earth in our modern day and time could take on a task like that. God gave them a specific way to live, a specific way to make the Tent of Meeting and a specific way the priests were to be dressed. God is big enough to define who He is and what is best for us. Following what He tells us to do whether it makes sense or not is what we should do. God is God and we are not.

The people of Israel were to stand together against the devil and those who hate God. They were to live the life that God gave them. He is the creator of the universe – does our house tell us what we can or can't do? Isaiah 45:9 says, "Does the clay ask the potter, 'What are you doing?' or, 'What's this you're making?'"

Just like Israel was to stand together and follow God the way He told them to follow Him, we need to stand together and follow God. We need each other and we need to encourage each other. "Keep exhorting each other every day, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you will become hardened by the deceit of sin. For we have become sharers in the Messiah, provided, however, that we hold firmly to the conviction we began with, right through until the goal is reached;" Hebrews 3:13-14 CJB.⁶ Also, we need to help each other in other ways, "Therefore, as the opportunity arises, let us do what is good to everyone, and especially to the family of those who are trustingly faithful;" Galatians 6:10 CJB.

God had a specific way He wanted Israel to do things. Who are we that we can argue with the creator? I want to be on the side of God; after all, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 CJB. The unbelievers of the world may not care about us, but God cares about us and that's the most important thing of all.

⁶ The "church" Fathers (early leadership) said that Hebrews was translated from Hebrew into Greek by Lukah (Lukah was Luke's real Hebrew name as seen on the Hebrew copies of the gospel of Luke).