

#20 Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10

By Moshe Schwab

While Praying:

- * Be faithful and strong enough to carry others spiritually.
- * Be at peace and have joy; relax and be confident.
- * Spend time with God; it's important to seek His wisdom.
- * There are many ways the Holy Spirit works.

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 couple of drops from the olive. It would be clear and pure. That is a picture of what we are to be as lights to others. Also, around this time of year is Purim which reminds us we are in a spiritual battle and we must fight spiritually to remain pure. Purim was a time of supernatural deliverance for God's people.

Aharon and his sons and descendants are to be special consecrated priests for the Lord. Specific instructions for the priestly garments and how they are to anoint Aaron and his sons were given. Special garments were to be made for them which includes a breastplate, vest, a blue robe, tunic, turban, and a sash. They were to put the urim and the tumim in the breastplate for making decisions. The stones were said to light up and spell a message supernaturally.

There would be bells on the bottom of the robe to let the people know the High Priest was at work (and they should pay attention) and the priests were to wear linen undergarments. Then the process of consecration is given with their dress, sacrifices, and rituals and the priests' consecration is to take 7 days. 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 (Tent of Meeting). Aharon and his sons were to 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 burn incense when Aharon lights the lamps at dusk. They were not to make any unauthorized offering or incense. Atonement for sin would be made once a year on the altar.

We see in this portion specific instructions about the menorah, the Cohens' (priest's) 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 has atoned for our sins. One of the major duties of the high priest was to offer a sacrifice for sin on Yom Kippur. Yeshua who came as God, offered Himself for our sins. The specific priestly apparel probably is a shadow picture of the glorious (Exodus 28:2) position of Yeshua who came as our glorious High Priest and Messiah.

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. Yochanan is probably referencing the Mishkan which is the tent of meeting in the desert where the presence of God was there as a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. In John 1:14, Yochanan is probably referring to Yeshua's presence as the presence of God among us just as the presence of God was among the people at the Mishkan.

The Haftarah for Tetzaveh is Ezekiel 43:20-27. Before this portion in Ezekiel, Ezekiel is having a vision of the House, the Temple, and we read in great detail about the future Temple. A man is standing by him and He says that this is the place for My throne where the soles of his feet will be with the children of Israel forever.

In these passages, the Lord (יהוה) is speaking to Ezekiel in the form of a man. This is probably a vision of Yeshua. No will ever again defile My holy name again He says. As our portion begins in verse 10, Ezekiel is told to describe, sketch, and give the sacrificial law for the House so that Israel will be ashamed of their crimes. The mountain top for the future Temple will be especially holy. This portion describes the consecration of this future Temple which is to cover the whole mountain. We probably see in the consecration a remembrance ceremony for what Yeshua did for us; namely, He died for our sins outside the sanctuary. After our portion it talks about the East Gate being closed because that is the gate that Yehovah has gone through.

Ezekiel 43:20-21 CJB says, "You are to take its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar, on the four corners of the ledge and on the molding all the way around; this is how you will purify it and make atonement for it. You are also to take the bull which is the sin offering and have it burned up at the designated place [on the grounds] of the house, outside the sanctuary.

Both all the people of Israel (Exodus 19:6) and all believers in Messiah (1 Peter 2:9) are to be priests and serve each other. We often think that we as individuals only have the responsibility to care for ourselves, but no one is an island and we all rely on others to survive. Without the farmer, there would be no food at the grocery store. We need to rely on each other to be faithful and strong; we should be able to carry others spiritually. The Bible says we need each other. Ecclesiastes 4:10 NKJV says, "For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up."

I am not talking about enabling. We are all responsible to God and we all need to be strong and faithful to God. We are also all responsible to help others to be strong spiritually.

* We are supposed to build each other up spiritually.

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing;" 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV.

* We are to get together for teaching and encouraging each other.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord;" Colossians 3:16 NKJV.

* We are to encourage each other to do right.

"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end;" Hebrews 3:12-14 NKJV.

Yeshua said, "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another;" Mark 9:50 NKJV. Salt can be used to preserve; salt represented honor in relationship. A salt covenant during meal time meant that you would trust each other. Be a person who preserves others; be a person of honor and trust; be someone who can be relied on. Don't tear down, but build up.

We should all try to be at peace and have joy. We need to have times where we can relax and be confident and be at peace with ourselves. Getting encouragement from others goes a long way to get us in that place. Let's read Colossians 3:16 in context this time.

Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV:

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these

things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

We need to be tender, kind, humble, patient, and forgiving toward each other. We are to allow God's peace to rule our lives and not the world's ways of doing things which are often the opposite. Being thankful can change our attitude on so many issues. We have so much to be thankful for and I'm thankful for you, my dear fellow believers. We need each other.

Spend time with God and learn how to do what is right; it's important to seek and know His wisdom. 1 Chronicles 22:19 NKJV says, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God." Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV says, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Yeshua said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;" Matthew 6:33 NKJV. Yeshua also said, "He who seeks finds;" Luke 11:10 NKJV.

It is with this in mind, Yeshua tells us to seek the work of the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 NKJV says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" There are many ways the Holy Spirit works and it was God's intention that we should use His gifts (charisma in Romans 12:6). These scriptures in Romans we need to be familiar with.

Romans 12:1-9 NKJV:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Yeshua gave Himself so that we could have a new life through the Holy Spirit. Give yourself to God, be holy; don't live like the worldly do; have humility, do your part with your spiritual gifting in the body; be diligent; serve God; rejoice, have hope, be patient, pray much, help others, and be hospitable. There is so much more in these verses. Transform your lives to be in line with God and His commandments. Live holy lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.

God had specific instructions on how the Mishkan (the Tent of Meeting in the desert) was to be built. Just like Israel was to do what God told them to do in building the Mishkan, we are to also do what God says and build up our faith and be strong believers in the Messiah Yeshua and our God Yehováh. God draws us together as a people to help one another. Just like Israel worked together to do what God wanted them to do, we need the help and encouragement of other believers working together and helping one another to be strong. Have peace and joy. Seek God; He has given Himself for us so we can have a changed life.