

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAT VAYIKRA

Bringing Blessing To Your Home

This week's Parsha, Vayikra, is the beginning of the book of Vayikra, which tells us about the sacrificial offerings that were offered in the Mishkan and later in the Temple. The sacrificial offerings were the primary service done in the Mishkan and Temple.

The Torah is eternal, meaning that we can and should take a practical lesson from every law and story found therein, and that applies for every person, in every place and at every time.

This is especially true about the details of the service in the Mishkan and Temple because that is what Hashem wants most, to reside in us, that we should make ourselves, our homes, and our place in the world, into a Mikdash, a holy place for Hashem to be. Even though the Temple was destroyed,

its teachings are pertinent and relevant to us, and maybe more so than ever.

YOU CAN GIVE G-D A LITTLE BIT, BUT WITH A LOT OF HEART.

As mentioned above, the sacrificial

offerings were the primary service in the Temple. The main offering in the Temple was the Tamid offering. It was a daily offering brought once in the morning, before all the other sacrifices, and once again in the afternoon, after all the other sacrifices.

What are some of the lessons that we are meant to learn from the Tamid offering?

The Tamid was offered twice daily, but it wasn't an obligation for every Jew to bring one, rather it was one offering that included all of the Jewish people. It was also a small offering, that consisted of a lamb, a bit of wine and oil, some flour, and salt. How was everyone included in the Tamid offering? It was purchased from the half-shekel

that was given annually. When you divide it over a year, you realize that the part that everybody had in a Tamid was small, if not minuscule, yet this brought blessing to the Jewish people throughout the year, no matter where they were.

The lesson here is that Hashem doesn't want us to give away all of our possessions to Him, rather, He wants a little, but it is how that little bit is given that matters. Hashem wants you to do it with your whole heart, meaning with passion and joy. It is not how much you give, but how you give it, that matters to Hashem. That is why the Tamid was so powerful because the people gave to it with their whole heart. When you give to Hashem with all of your heart, with passion and joy, then your life and home are filled with blessings, just as it was when the Tamid was brought.

Another lesson from the Tamid is that although it was only brought in the morning and evening, it was called Tamid, which means constant. If it was only brought twice a day, why was it called constant? Because, although it was only brought twice a day, its effect was constant, its impact lasted all day long, so it was constant. It was the foundation for all the offerings that came after it, it influenced and affected them.

The same is true for our day. Our day consists of a number of events and tasks, physical and spiritual and we don't always see the G-dly light in them. Even the time that one spends on soul matters is flawed, because it is done from a human perspective, which is commonly wrong and at times, could lead one astray.

What we have to do, is give ourselves over to Hashem first thing in the morning, before anything else. And that is what we do when we say, "Modeh ani lefanecha melech... I give thanks before You King..." as soon as we wake up. This is



thanking Hashem for returning our neshamas, and we call Him "King," a king is one who you give yourself completely over to, your body and even your life. It is proclaiming Hashem your King and giving yourself completely over to Him.

When one brought a sacrifice, the main things that were offered were the blood that was sprayed on the altar and the fat that was burned on the altar. The blood is the life force of the body; it represents the life and the passion of the person. The fat is the good stuff; it represents pleasure. What Hashem wants is that we should give our pleasure and our passion to Him, that we should make what He wants our passion and our pleasure.

When you start your day with Modeh ani, all the chores of the daily grind are influenced by this proclamation, your passion and pleasure is for Hashem. It's in effect, the Tamid offering of your day, and it brings blessing to you, your home, and your family.

A third lesson from the Tamid. The Midrash says that the Tamid was an atonement for sins committed prior to its offering. In other words, Hashem gives a person the opportunity to return to Him if he or she happened to have a moral failing.

Our lives are difficult, every one of us is put to the test regularly, and it is possible for one to fail the test. This is not a reason to give up. Rather you should bring a Tamid offering, say Modeh ani, which is the same idea as the Tamid. If you say Modeh ani with your whole heart and soul, with a true resolve to give yourself completely over to Hashem, it is like offering a Tamid, and He will surely forgive you.

A Jew should never give up on himself, but he should take the opportunity to return to Hashem with all of his or her heart, repair what needs repairing, mend what needs mending, and hopefully, Hashem will accept his teshuva.

This teshuva, in the way of Modeh ani, is making the decision with your whole heart, with a strong resolve to put your passion, joy, and pleasure in holy things. And when you do teshuva in the way of the Tamid offering, you are forgiven by Hashem and you are given the blessings, for you, your home, and your family.

This is especially important for women, who are the backbone of their homes and their families.

When they set up their homes to have a Tamid atmosphere, it brings Hashem's blessing to their homes.

The blessings of the home will surely have a ripple effect. It will spread to all of the Jewish people, and it will hasten the coming of Moshiach when we will once again see the Tamid being offered. May it happen soon.

Dedicated to my wife Dina who is the backbone of our home and a true aishes chayil, beautiful inside and out.

"Dear Torah From My Eyes,

Two amazing young men stopped by last erev Shabbat and asked if I'd like to put on tefillin. They shared the incredible story of Rabbi Yitzi. They described him as a devoted father, a talented musician, and a beloved Chabad Rabbi. I gathered that despite what he faces physically, the tzaddik Rabbi Hurwitz - communicating solely through his eyes - continues to inspire countless people with his unwavering faith and positivity. They told me it was his birthday, and his heartfelt wish was simple yet powerful: to see pictures of people donning tefillin.

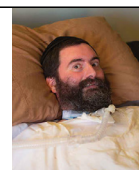
It made me really happy to be able to do that and be a part of the good wishes from a holy man. It showed me what true strength looks like— and here I was in fitness for many years, thinking all of my physical strength training made me strong!

May his inspiration continue to ripple across the world."

- Steve L, Los Angeles

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:
(937) 770-4802 | TORAHFROMMYEYES@GMAIL.COM

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



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