

## #25 Tzav Leviticus 6:8 (1)- 8:36

By Moshe Schwab

While Praying:

- \* How do we have joy in a difficult time?
- \* Filter out thoughts that clog our mind. Think good thoughts.
- \* Look to the future even if it seems far off.
- \* Look to God and not at the barriers; listen to God over and over.

Tzav means “command.” This portion begins by God giving commands about the burnt offerings, meal offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings, ordination offerings, and well-being offerings. Burnt offerings were to be entirely burnt up and the fire on the altar was to never go out. The priests were to eat some of the other offerings at the tent of meeting; the meal offering at the anointment of the priest was to be burnt up completely. There was to be no leaven in the offerings, and no blood or fat was to be eaten. Moshe then does a consecration ritual for the priests. He dresses them, anoints them with oil, does a bull offering and two ram offerings, a blood ritual, and an elevation offering. Moshe then anoints them with blood and oil, and they were to remain at the Tent of Meeting (the Mishkan, the Tabernacle) for seven days until their consecration and atonement was over.

Again, in this portion, God is very specific about how the offerings were to be done. It should remind us that we are to do things God’s way and not our own way. He is God and we are not. Particularly in this portion, it was a special moment in the lives of Aharon and his sons as they were anointed priests and consecrated to the Lord. We should also conclude that being a priest for the true God or for that matter, any leadership position for God is to be taken very seriously.

The Haftarah for Tzav is Jeremiah 7:21 to 8:3, and 9:22-23. Just before our Haftarah portion it says that God's anger and fury will be poured out on those who worship the queen of heaven and other pagan gods. The queen of heaven is Ishtar (Easter) also known as the multi-breasted pagan goddess of fertility. Let's consider the kingdom of God being a very high-class place. After all, God is all powerful. So, the future kingdom of God is going to be very amazing.

So, let's imagine a very high-class restaurant being there for everyone and say a guy walks in without a shirt on. It would be a disgrace to show up without a shirt on at a high-class restaurant. So, it is a disgrace to refer to the resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus) as the bare-breasted god Ishtar (Easter). After all, He gave us minds to use to give Him the glory He deserves!

Not only that, but praying to Mary is a form of pagan worship since **we are to pray to God only**. Shaul (Paul) said that no one engaged in pagan worship will be allowed in the Kingdom of God. " Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God;" 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV.

We are near Passover. Passover was when Israel was set free from the Egyptians so they could serve God. Yeshua died and rose from the dead at the time of Passover so we could be set free from sin and serve God. Passover is relevant for believers in the Messiah Yeshua and should be celebrated.

I've heard people say we don't have to observe God's feasts. What's the matter with God's feasts? They aren't just Jewish feasts, but are biblical feasts. Shaul says to observe the Passover. Pesach is the Hebrew word for Passover and the word Seder is the ceremony for Passover. Hametz is bread with leaven and leaven when observing the Passover refers to sin; so, by removing hametz, it means we are to remove sin from our lives. Matzah is bread without leaven. 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 CJB says, "For our Pesach lamb, the

Messiah, has been sacrificed. So let us celebrate the Seder not with leftover hametz, the hametz of wickedness and evil, but with the matzah of purity and truth."

Celebrate the Seder! Shaul (Paul) commands us to observe the Passover no matter where we live. Yeshua said that there will come a time when we will worship God wherever we live (John 4:21). It is no longer true that we have to go to Jerusalem because the Messiah has changed that. Some say we can't do it unless we are in Jerusalem. They are just anti-Jewish replacement theology critics. Messianic believers over history have observed the Passover wherever they lived. Messianic believers who kept God's commandments were the true believers in Shaul's (Paul's) time.

True believers also didn't keep misapplied man-made laws. We should understand that some pertinent ritual is okay. Ritual is part of life, but ritual is not necessarily a commandment from God unless God says to perform it. Notice I said misapplied man-made laws. Some say you have to wear a hat after you get up in the morning. What does wearing your hat after you get up have to do with God? It's a man-made law. Man-made laws become man-made idols.

Our Haftarah portion begins by saying that they should have obeyed God's commandments, but they did things their own way and were stubborn and had evil hearts. People just want to do things their own way. They celebrate our national holidays instead of God's holidays (feasts). There is nothing wrong with our national feasts, but it is a disgrace to Christianity that some don't celebrate God's feasts. Call Easter Resurrection Weekend for goodness sake. It is not the feast of Ishtar (Easter), the bare-breasted goddess of fertility. Some say it doesn't matter. Tell that to God when you stand before Him in judgment.

God tells Jeremiah to call to the people, but they won't listen or answer. Israel is doing detestable things and they even offer their sons for human sacrifice. God warns them that their land will be turned to ruin for their sins. Instead of being stubborn and doing things their own way, they should have known and understood that they were to do things God's way. He is a God of grace (favor), justice (He does what is just.), and righteousness (He does what is right.). Why not do things His way!

Let's read Jeremiah 7:23-24 and 9:23 from the Haftarah for Tzav.

Jeremiah 7:23-24 CJB

"Rather, what I did order them was this: 'Pay attention to what I say. Then I will be your God, and you will be my people. In everything, live according to the way that I order you, so that things will go well for you.' But they neither listened nor paid attention, but lived according to their own plans, in the stubbornness of their evil hearts, thus going backward and not forward."

Jeremiah 9:23 CJB

"'Instead, let the boaster boast about this: that he understands and knows me - that I am ADONAI, practicing grace, justice and righteousness in the land; for in these things I take pleasure,' says ADONAI."

When I look at some forms of Christianity, I am very saddened because of their lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6 NKJV says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." Do you want God to forget your children; get with it. Understand and keep God's law.

We have lots of knowledge about everything except for God. 3,000 believed in the Messiah Yeshua on Shavuot (Pentecost) it says in Acts 2. God gave the Holy Spirit on a Jewish feast day; that's why all those Jewish people were there. The 3,000 who believed knew their Bible and they were instantly home group

leaders. They fellowshiped from house to house and ate together (Acts 2:46). Eating together is something Jews do on Shabbat! Believers observe Shabbat; they observed Shabbat.

Eating together at the present time is a difficult thing to do because of the recent super virus, the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus that is going around. It came from a market in China that sells bats to eat. God told us not to eat certain things and because people don't listen to God, they bring these things on themselves. A lot good people will die because of that virus. God is trying to protect us, but we won't listen. Listen to God; He doesn't want anyone to die from this and it is wrong to wish death on anyone. We want what is good; God wants what is good!

That leads to a difficult question. How can we have joy in a difficult time? I have joy in knowing that no matter what happens, I am right with God. We are to accept the Messiah Yeshua, the Holy Spirit, and follow God's commandments (turn from sin to God, teshuvah). If you are not keeping the pertinent commandments from the Old Testament portion, you are sinning. People say we can't keep them; they don't want to keep them. Some commandments were just for Israel when they entered the land. Some need to be kept on a personal basis because we live in a pagan land. The sin offerings were done away with because Yeshua the Messiah was the final sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:9-12). We are to keep the commandments in the New Testament because they are based on the Old Testament portion.

When Shaul (Paul) says we are to support our leadership in 1 Timothy 5:18, he quotes from the Old Testament portion. "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain;" Deuteronomy 25:4 NKJV. The New Testament portion was based on the Old Testament portion. There was no New Testament for the early believers. That wasn't put together until the Itala text was put together around 150 AD and it included the Hebrew gospels. That's right, the early believers were all Jewish and the gospels were originally written in Hebrew.<sup>1</sup> They have been found. Some of the New Testament letters were also written in Hebrew and all the New Testament needs to be understood within a Jewish context. The Messiah Yeshua was Jewish and still is Jewish!

Let's continue talking about how we can have joy, even in difficult times. Ya'akov (James' real name) said we are to have joy, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience;" James 1:2-3 NKJV. From trials, we can develop more conviction. Yeshua said we would have trials, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world;" John 6:33 NKJV. Yeshua said to be of "good cheer."

Every day I say a Jewish prayer that thanks God for another day. Jewish prayers often just come from something in the Bible. For example, Psalm 118:24 NKJV says, "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Why not start your day being thankful? When you are stressed, tap into the joy you can have from God. Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV says, "Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Don't stay in the "dumps." That won't give you peace. Be at peace, be thankful, and have joy. I know it's not easy at times, but do it. Ask God to be with you and protect you. The Israelites sang this song, "You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance." Psalm 32:7 NKJV. Hide yourself in God; sing about His deliverance.

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek text was put together by the Roman Empire which was an anti-Jewish Empire and the Greek text contains many anti-Jewish insertions. These insertions were put in by heretics.

We should also understand that believers in the Messiah have hope. "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit;" Romans 15:13 NKJV. We have a relationship with the God of the universe; those who love Him and are growing spiritually, and want to keep His commandments have the hope of eternal life.

This life is short, but eternal life is a long long time. 1 Corinthians 15:52-54 NKJV says, " For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'" We have victory over death because of the Messiah.

Shaul says nothing will be able to separate us from the Messiah in Romans 8. As we separate ourselves for God, He will not allow us to be separated from Him. I once heard a preacher say, "God is all the time voting for you, and the devil is voting against you; and we determine the election." I vote for the God of the Bible, Yehovah (Exodus 3:15).

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 CJB says we have the victory, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah! So, my dear brothers, stand firm and immovable, always doing the Lord's work as vigorously as you can, knowing that united with the Lord your efforts are not in vain." Stand firm; be immovable. Filter out the thoughts that clog our mind and release them to God. Think good thoughts.

I'm not saying to throw caution to the wind. That would be foolish. Someone I know who lived in a war zone years ago was saved by her brave mother. Some fighting broke out nearby and her mother went outside and grabbed her and brought her to safety. Get ahold of yourself and bring your thoughts to where they belong. If you allow your mind to keep you down so that you only focus on the negative, you will begin reacting in negative ways. Be brave, but use good sense. Shaul said in Philippians 2:1-2 NKJV, "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.."

Keep moving forward; keep living for God and Yeshua. Keep looking to the future even if it seems far off. I've been in some tough places in my life and the solution to my problems was doing what is right and seeking God. Even the heartache I felt years ago seemed to go away when I put God first. I can't explain it right now; but just thinking of this scripture about God healing the brokenhearted brings tears to my eyes. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds;" Psalm 147:3 NKJV. Also, Psalm 55:22 NKJV says, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved." Tell God what is bothering you and stand strong.

Look to God and not at the barriers we face; listen to God over and over. Listen to what the scriptures say. Also, seek God's voice and comfort. Psalm 34:18 tells us God is with us, "The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." Isn't that wonderful. It says in Deuteronomy that God will not leave us or forsake us, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you;" Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV.

One of the challenges of life is to keep our hearts and minds in the right place. It says in Proverbs 4:23-27 NKJV, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids

look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil." Let's keep our hearts in all we do. If it takes one hundred times, stay true to God. Look forward and think about what you are doing. Don't budge; do what is right in all we face.

God wanted Israel to do things a specific way; we need to do things God's way and not our way. God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge about God and the scriptures. We need to have joy, even in difficult times. Our thoughts can get clogged up with the issues of life and the troubles we face. Take comfort in God and decide to follow Him and do what is right no matter what. We have a lot to be thankful for as believers. Nothing can take us away from God unless we let our own thoughts overcome us. Yeshua said, "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God;" Revelation 2:7 NKJV. God will never leave us or forsake us; be faithful.