

Leviticus chapter 22 and 23 *el-Aharon Tell Aaron*

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Introduction

Tzur Yisrael Triennial Parasha 97 (#32.2) ^A

Lev 22:1-33 – Rules for Priests and Flawless Sacrifices

The priests in their uncleanness must abstain from the holy things

¹And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ²Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they profane not my holy name in those things which they hallow unto me: I am YHVH. ³Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto YHVH, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from my presence: I am YHVH. ⁴What man soever of the seed of Aaron is a leper, or hath a running issue; he shall not eat of the holy things, until he be clean. And whoso toucheth any thing that is unclean by the dead, or a man whose seed goeth from him; ⁵Or whosoever toucheth any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he hath;

How they shall be cleansed

⁶The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water. ⁷And when the sun is down, he shall be clean, and shall afterward eat of the holy things; because it is his food. ⁸That which dieth of itself, or is torn with beasts, he shall not eat to defile himself therewith; I am YHVH. They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I YHVH do sanctify them. Who of the priest's house may eat of the holy things ¹⁰There shall no stranger eat of the holy thing: a sojourner of the priest, or an hired servant, shall not eat of the holy thing. ¹¹But if the priest buy any soul with his money, he shall eat of it, and he that is born in his house: they shall eat of his meat. ¹²If the priest's daughter also be married unto a stranger, she may not eat of an offering of the holy things. ¹³But if the priest's daughter be a widow, or divorced, and have no child, and is

^A <http://www.ahavta.org/Commentary%20Y-2/Y2-41.htm> Aleph Tav: Lev 21:12, 21, Eze 44:5

<http://www.myhebrewbible.com/Parasha/97/daber-elaharon-leviticus-22-1-to-23-44-number-32-2>

returned unto her father's house, as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's meat: but there shall be no stranger eat thereof. ¹⁴And if a man eat of the holy thing unwittingly, then he shall put the fifth part thereof unto it, and shall give it unto the priest with the holy thing. ¹⁵And they shall not profane the holy things of the children of Israel אֶת, which they offer unto YHVH;

of the בְּנֵי ka-de-Shei the holy things קְדָשֵׁי -et' אֶת- ,ye-chal-le-Lu And they shall not profane יַחֲלֹלוּ ve-Lo shall not וְלֹא ¹⁵
.Yah-weh unto the LORD לַיהוָה ya-Ri-mu which they offer יְרִימוּ -a-Sher' which אֲשֶׁר et' אֶת ,of Israel Yis-ra-El יִשְׂרָאֵל be-Nei children

¹⁶Or suffer them to bear the iniquity of trespass, when they eat their holy things: for I YHVH do sanctify them.

The sacrifices must be without blemish

¹⁷And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁸Speak unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them, Whatsoever he be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, that will offer his oblation for all his vows, and for all his freewill offerings, which they will offer unto YHVH for a burnt offering; ¹⁹Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats. ²⁰But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. ²¹And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto YHVH to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. ²²Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto YHVH, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto YHVH. ²³Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted. ²⁴Ye shall not offer unto YHVH that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land. ²⁵Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you.

The age of the sacrifice

²⁶And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ²⁷When a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat, is brought forth, then it shall be seven days under the dam; and from the eighth day and thenceforth it shall be accepted for an offering made by fire unto YHVH. ²⁸And whether it be cow, or ewe, ye shall not kill it and her young both in one day.

The law of eating the sacrifice of thanksgiving

²⁹And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto YHVH, offer it at your own will. ³⁰On the same day it shall be eaten up; ye shall leave none of it until the morrow: I am YHVH. ³¹Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am YHVH. ³²Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am YHVH which hallow you, ³³That brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am YHVH.

Lev 23:1-44 Feasts of Weeks, Trumpets, Tabernacles; Day of Atonement

The feasts of the Lord

¹And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ²Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of YHVH, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.

the Sabbath

³Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of YHVH in all your dwellings.

The Passover

⁴These are the feasts of YHVH, even holy convocations, which ye ^B shall proclaim תִּקְרְאוּ tik-re-'U אֶתְם 'o-Tam in their seasons בְּמוֹעֲדָם be-mo-'a-Dam .

⁵In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is YHVH's passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto YHVH: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

⁷In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

⁸But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto YHVH seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

The sheaf of firstfruits

⁹And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁰Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

and וְאָמַרְתָּ Yis-ra-'El of Israel יִשְׂרָאֵל be-Nei unto the children בְּנֵי -el' to אֶל- dab-Ber Speak דַּבֵּר ¹⁰
into the הָאָרֶץ -el' about אֶל- ta-Vo-'u unto them When ye be come וְתָבֵאוּ -ki When כִּי- ,a-le-Hem' to אֱלֵהֶם ve-'a-mar-Ta say
unto you and shall וְקִצְרְתֶם ,la-Chem לָכֶם no-Ten which I give נָתַן a-Ni' I am אֲנִי a-Sher' which אֲשֶׁר ,ha-'A-retz land
a עֹמֵר -et' את- va-ha-ve-Tem thereof then ye shall bring וְהֵבֵאתֶם ,ke-tzi-Rah the harvest קְצִירָה -et' אֶת- u-ke-tzar-Tem reap
hak-ko-Hen unto the priest הַכֹּהֵן -el' to אֶל- ke-tzi-re-Chem of your harvest קְצִירְכֶם re-Shit of the firstfruits רֵאשִׁית O-mer' sheaf

¹¹And he shall wave the sheaf before YHVH, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹²And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto YHVH. ¹³And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto YHVH for a sweet savor: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. ¹⁴And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings מִשְׁבַּתֵיכֶם mo-she-Vo-tei-Chem .

The feast of Pentecost

¹⁵And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: ¹⁶Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto YHVH. ¹⁷Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals; they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits בִּכּוּרִים bik-ku-Rim unto YHVH. ¹⁸And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto YHVH, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savor unto YHVH. ¹⁹Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. ²⁰And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before YHVH, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to YHVH for the priest. ²¹And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

^B There is a debate about what ye means. The question is it singular and therefore delegated to the authority of one man like the Sanhedrin or the Kohen Hagadol. or is it meant to be plural in that the congregation needs to decide it.

²² And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am YHVH your God.

The feast of trumpets

²³ And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ²⁴ Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets תְּרוּעָה *te-ru'Ah*, an holy convocation. ²⁵ Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto YHVH.

The day of atonement

²⁶ And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ²⁷ Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto YHVH. ²⁸ And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before YHVH your God. ²⁹ For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. ³⁰ And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. ³¹ Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ³² It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath

שַׁבְּתֵי-חַמֵּשׁ *shab-bat-te-Chem*

The feast of tabernacles

³³ And YHVH spake unto Moses, saying, ³⁴ Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto YHVH. ³⁵ On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. ³⁶ Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto YHVH: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto YHVH: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. ³⁷ These are the feasts of YHVH, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto YHVH, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: ³⁸ Beside the sabbaths of YHVH, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto YHVH. ³⁹ Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto YHVH seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. ⁴⁰ And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before YHVH your God seven days. ⁴¹ And ye shall keep it a feast unto YHVH seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. ⁴² Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: ⁴³ That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your God. ⁴⁴ And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of YHVH.

Isa 56 1:12 ^C haftarah Keep justice, and do righteousness; for my salvation is near to come

The prophet exhorts to sanctification

¹Thus saith YHVH, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. ²Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.

He promises it shall be general, without respect of persons

³Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to YHVH, speak, saying, YHVH hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. ⁴For thus saith YHVH unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;

⁵Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

⁶Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to YHVH, to serve him, and to love the name of YHVH, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;

⁷Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

⁸The Lord GOD, which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

He protests against blind watchmen

⁹All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. ¹⁰His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. ¹¹Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. ¹²Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

1 Co 15:20-23 brit Messiah has risen from the dead and first fruits of them that slept

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

^C See Isaiah-56, article #[105](#).

e-Sword Notes

Lev 23:5

See notes on Exo_12:27.

When was the Passover Sacrifice Brought?

An explanation of "between the evenings" "at even"

The Torah commands us: "In the First Month on the fourteenth day of the month, between the two evenings [Hebrew: "Bein Ha'arabayim"], is the Passover [Sacrifice] to YHWH." {JKM (Lev_23:5)} In biblical Hebrew, the word "evening" (Ayin-Resh-Bet) indicates both the "early part of the night" as well as the actual "onset of evening". In the expression "between the two evenings" the first "onset of evening" is sunset (when the disk of the sun disappears) while the second "onset of evening" is the disappearance of the last rays of the sun and the onset of total darkness. The expression "between the two evenings" is used interchangeably with the term "Ba-Erev" (literally: "at evening") which itself refers to the "onset of the evening". For example, in the incident of the Manna it is written (Exo_16:11-13):

Lev_23:5

Lev 23:5 IHOT+ שְׁחַטוּ בַּיּוֹם הַרְבֵּעִי בֵּין הָעֶרְבַּיִם עֶשְׂרֵי שָׁלוֹשׁ שָׁעָרִים בְּיָמֵי חֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן הַפְּסַח לַיהוָה

"I have heard the complaints of the Children of Israel; speak to them saying 'Between the two evenings you shall eat meat'... And it was at evening that the quail rose up and covered the camp."

We see in this passage that an event predicted as happening "between the two evenings" is said to have happened "at evening". The meaning of "at evening" itself can be learned from the verse "... you shall slaughter the Passover [sacrifice] at evening, at sunset" (Deu_16:6). We see in this verse that "at evening" and "at sunset" are interchangeable expressions (used in "apposition").

To summarize, the Torah describes the time of the Passover Sacrifice with three different expressions: "At Sunset", "At Evening", "Between the Two Evenings". All three of these terms refer to the early evening, shortly after sunset.

Beginning or End of the 14th?

The Torah commands that the Passover sacrifice be brought "In the First Month on the Fourteenth Day of the Month between the two evenings" (Lev_23:5). It is unclear from this verse whether what is being referred to is the period of dusk at the beginning of the 14th or the period of dusk at the end of the 14th. Lev_23:6 continues that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is "on the Fifteenth Day of this month". From this verse it appears that the Passover Sacrifice is to be brought at sunset at the end of the 14th and eaten on the night of the 15th. This is confirmed by Deu_16:4, which commands us regarding the Passover Sacrifice: "and there shall not remain of

the meat that you slaughter at evening on the first day until the morning." We see that the entire Paschal lamb must be consumed on the following night it is slaughtered and none of it may be left over until the morning (see also Exo_12:10, Exo_12:22). For our purposes what is significant is that the verse describes the Passover sacrifice as being slaughtered "at evening on the first day".

The passage in Deu_16:1-8 is talking about the Feast of Unleavened Bread and there can be no doubt that "the first day" in (Deu_16:4) refers to the first day of Unleavened Bread. We have already seen in Lev_23:6 that the First Day of Unleavened Bread falls out on the 15th of the First Month. When we look at Lev_23:5-6 and Deu_16:4 together it becomes clear that the Passover Sacrifice is brought at the end of the 14th of the First Month between the two evenings and eaten that same evening on the 15th of the First Month. The period of "between the two evenings" is reckoned as both the end of the 14th (Lev_23:5) and the beginning of the 15th (Deu_16:4)!

It is not unusual for the Torah to refer to "such and such a date at evening" and to mean the evening that ends that day. In Lev_23:27 we learn that the Day of Atonement occurs on the 10th day of the Seventh Month. A few verses later the Torah makes clear what is meant by the 10th day: "and you shall afflict your souls on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening to evening you shall observe your Sabbath" (Lev_23:32). So we see that to fast on the 10th day means to fast from sunset on the 9th until the following sunset. In this verse "the ninth at evening" refers to the onset of evening at the end of the 9th, not the beginning! So the fast of the Day of Atonement on the 10th of the month runs from sunset ending the 9th until sunset ending the 10th (see also Exo_12:18). Similarly, the 14th between the two evenings in v.5 Exo_12:6 of the same chapter refers to the end of the 14th, not the beginning, as confirmed by Deu_16:4 ... "...and there shall not remain of the meat that you slaughter at evening on the first day until morning" Deu_16:4.

Source: http://www.karaite-korner.org/passover.shtml#meaning_of_passover; and C:\Documents and Settings\John\My Documents\Religion\Other\Passover and Unleavened Bread.doc