

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA ISSUE 20

8th February 2014

TETZAVEH

8th Adar 5774

Kohen - First Aliya:

Chapter 27, verse 20 – Chapter 28, verse 12

- ✚ Hashem informs Moshe that Bnai Yisrael are to provide pure oil to light the Menorah. Aaron and his sons then will have the responsibility of making sure the Menorah once lit, stays burning continuously.
- ✚ Beginning with Aaron as Kohen Gadol, along with his sons The Kohanim (priesthood) lineage is established. Special garments are required to be made and worn on every occasion when they are performing their duties in the Mishkan (sanctuary)
- ✚ The Ephod (apron) made from gold, sky-blue & dark red thread, crimson wool and linen must cover the Kohen Gadol's back and front. Held in place by two shoulder straps with a shoam (onyx) stone on which the names of six tribes are engraved on one and the remaining six tribes on the other.

Levi - Second Aliya:

Chapter 28, verses 13 - 30

- ✚ The Hoshen (breastplate) is also made out of the five different materials listed above. It is one cubit in length and half a cubit wide, folded in half to form a square pocket into which the Urim V'tumin (Hashem's ineffable name) is inserted.
- ✚ Four rows of three precious stones with one name of the twelve tribes written on each one are mounted onto the front of the Hoshen before attaching it to the Ephod with a gold chain; it must hang down over the Kohen Gadol's heart.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya:

Chapter 28, verses 31 - 43

- ✚ The length of the K'tonet (tunic), worn by all of the Kohanim, must reach from their necks down to their heels.
- ✚ An M'eal (type of sleeveless robe with a hole at the top for the head to go through) is made from sky-blue wool and is worn over the K'tonet.
- ✚ Hanging from the bottom of the M'eal are alternating bells and pomegranates made from gold.
- ✚ The Tzitz (head-plate) is made from gold with the words 'Holy to Hashem' engraved on it. This is then tied round the Kohen Gadol's forehead.
- ✚ In addition to these three other garments: Mihnasyim (shorts), Mitznefat (Hat) and an Avnet (sash) must be worn by both the Kohen Gadol and the rest of the Kohanim.

R'VI' - Fourth Aliya:

Chapter 29, verses 1 - 18

- ✚ Hashem tells Moshe that he should be the one to install Aaron and his sons as Kohanim by immersing them in the Mikveh.
- ✚ Moshe was then responsible for dressing them in the clothes described above and anointing them with oil.
- ✚ Hashem then enumerates in detail, all the products and animals, which are to be brought and sacrificed by Aaron to commemorate his consecration.
- ✚ The whole installation of the Kohanim took seven days.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Chapter 29, verses 19 – 37 and

Shishi – Sixth Aliya:

Chapter 29, verses 38 - 46

- ✚ Hashem explains to Moshe which Korbanim (sacrifices) are to be brought onto the Mizbayah on an daily basis; both morning and afternoon, along with other certain rituals like, the waving and sprinkling of the blood for example, which the Kohanim are also required to perform.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya:

Chapter 30, verses 1 - 10

- ✚ Finally Hashem commands Moshe to build a Mizbayah Hak'toret (An altar for burning the incense on); made from wood and covered in gold. The dimensions of the altar must be one cubit in length, one cubit in width and two cubits high.
- ✚ Aaron was given the job to burn incense on it every morning and evening.

Haftorah – YEHEZKEL (EZEKIEL) Chapter 42 verse 5 to Chapter 43 verse 10

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ Yehezkel receives a prophecy from Hashem, showing him an image of what the future Bais Hamikdash (Temple) will look like along with all the dimensions and measurements for the Mizbayah (Altar).
- ✚ At the same time Yehezkel is told about a ritual that must be performed to consecrate the Kohanim and the Mizbayah into active service for the people.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ The sedra discusses the dedication ceremony of the Mizbayah in the Mishkan.
- ✚ Using almost the identical wording written in the torah, the haphtarach, describes the same event for the inauguration of the future Beis Hamikdash.
- ✚ According to the Malbim, the dedication of the Mishkan lasted seven days from the 23rd of Adar until Rosh Chodesh Nissan and that the dedication of the Mizbayah in the future will be commemorated between those same dates.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION: The Psychology of Clothing

There's an old adage that says, 'A person's wardrobe articulates a lot about themselves'. What you wear can inform a passerby not only your cultural status, or what type of employment you might be in, but your ambitions, emotions and possible spending habits too; but can you really judge what type of person they are just by what they are wearing? Not really, just because a man is walking around with ripped jeans, dirty looking T-shirt and body piercings doesn't mean he is a ruffian looking for trouble. A clean shaven man in a designer suit could be just as bad if not worse.

How you dress doesn't really have a lot to do with who you are. If you happen to be wearing nice clothes, it does not mean that you're necessarily rich, fashion conscious, or even a good person. It means that you're just wearing nice clothes. Nothing more!

So what is the Torah's perspective and lessons regarding Clothing?

The way you dress don't make the person you are, they just accentuate what already exists inside of you. While you may be able to change the attitude of the way someone may look and think about you. At the end of the day it is still you under those layers.

This week's sedra comes alive with visions of all the elaborate garments made from various textiles, precious stones and gold and yet realistically Aaron could have easily got away with not wearing any of them. It did not matter to Bnai Yisrael what he wore because to them Aaron's middos (Character traits) radiated and shone through regardless. Aaron would always be to them a well-respected, kind hearted, easily approachable and loving individual.

The purpose for each of the specific articles worn by Aaron, the Kohen Gadol, was to only aspire himself further, to not only stand out from the crowd but to enhance his own spirituality, enabling him to become a conduit between Hashem and the whole of Bnai Yisrael during the korbanos (Sacrifices) service in the Mishkan.

Dressing for an occasion is deeply ingrained in the society we live in; and the clothing mentioned in this week's Parsha is no exception. On a deeper level, our sages teach us that it takes more than just a casual, informal approach to serve Hashem with awe and respect, which is why Aaron and the other Kohanim's appearance, had to be spiritual and a made to measure fit.

Yes, Clothes are a way of expressing ourselves, our feelings and our identities. They do tell a story about ourselves, but be aware of what messages your dress sense is giving out to others because it may be showing them someone who isn't really you, deep inside.

Compiled, Designed & Written by Jeremy Symons

SNAPSHOT TORAH

Ealing Synagogue thanks Jeremy Symons of Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation for kindly allowing us to reproduce his overview of the week's Sidra.

שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם
S h a b b a t S h a l o m !

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