



Tzav

VaYikra (Leviticus) 6:1 - 8:36

Parshat Tzav explains the special role of the *Kohanim* (Priests) in insuring that the sacrifices (delineated in last week's *Parshah*) were offered properly. The *Kohanim* were commanded to bring an *Olah* (burnt offering) on behalf of the community every morning and evening, and the fire on the altar was to be kept burning continuously.

Other directions were given concerning the *Minchah* (meal-offering), the *Chatat* (sin-offering), the *Asham* (guilt-offering) and the *Zevach HaShlamim* (sacrifice of well being). The priests' share of the offerings could be eaten only within the court of the sanctuary by a priest who was ceremonially clean.

From the time he was ordained, Aaron was to bring a meal-offering each morning and evening on his own behalf and on behalf of all his fellow priests. The peace offering was the only sacrifice in which the one who actually offered the sacrifice was also permitted to partake, provided that he too, was ceremonially clean.

Aaron and his sons were consecrated and installed by Moses in a ceremony held before the *Mishkan* (tabernacle). Moses dressed Aaron in his High Priestly garments, anointed the *Mishkan*, the altar and their accessories, and poured the anointing oil on Aaron's head to sanctify him. The installation ceremony concluded with the investiture of the ordinary priests.

To insure that they might maintain their ability to function in the *Mishkan* at all times, the priests avoided contact with the outside. This served as a precaution against impurity and to prevent their diversion by worldly matters. Throughout the week, mind and heart were concentrated on the solemnity and importance of the office they were entering, and maintaining the holiness of the *Mishkan*.



Jewish Community Center of Paramus
E. 304 Midland Ave., Paramus NJ 07652
Phone: (201) 262-7691 Fax: (201) 262-6516
© 2007 Jewish Community Center of Paramus