



THIS WEEK AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

March 27 to April 2 2 Nisan to 8 Nisan

Parsha of the Week: Vayikra (Lev. 1:1-5:26)

Parsha Highlights: G-d instructs Moses in the laws of animal sacrifice, and the meal offerings to be made in the Divine Dwelling-Place. These include: the “lifted-up offering,” totally consumed by fire; the “meal offering,” consisting of flour, olive oil, and frankincense; the “peace offering,” parts of which were eaten by the donor and the priests; etc.

From Sacrifice to Prayer

By Rabbi David Mark

For us moderns, envisioning the Holy Dwelling-Place, or the later Holy Temple, as a slaughterhouse is off-putting, to say the least. Why does the Torah place so much emphasis on animal offerings and sacrifices? To begin with, the ancients ate far less meat than we (even in this age of vegetarianism), since we are able to go into a meat market and easily buy that evening’s dinner, with not even a qualm. (This becomes more complex if one keeps a kosher home, which involves a long trip down to kosher meat markets in Peabody or Brookline, but no one ever said being a kosher Jew was easy).

Our ancestors, who lived in close contact with their flocks of sheep, goats, and other animals, were more in touch with their animals’ feelings than we. Because of this, they were not in any hurry to sacrifice them. And what was a poor man to do if he wished to offer thanks to G-d for some sudden stroke of luck in his life? He might make do with a single dove as an offering. The essential thing to remember is that the Hebrew word for “sacrifice” is *korban*, from the root meaning “nearness.” By offering such a precious gift to G-d, the donor felt with all his heart that he was truly drawing closer to the Holy One who had gifted him with plenty, and he was giving a little of His own back.

Yes, it was dramatic, it was bloody, but it was elemental, and it proved in the most direct way the limits of earthly existence—and, perhaps, made very clear to the donor, and the priestly recipient, the awesome power of the G-d who created life and, sadly, death, as well.

Friday, March 27

9:00 am Preschool
7:30 pm Service (Rabbi Krieger)
6:45 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 28

9:30 am Shabbat Service (TBD)
6:05 pm Sundown
7:46 pm Shabbat Ends

Sunday, March 29

9:00 am Hebrew School Music w/Fran Art K/1
9:30 am Discussion Group
3:00 pm Women's Seder (Home of Marjorie Stock)

Monday, March 30

9:00 am Preschool
6:30 pm Adult Ed Class

Tuesday, March 31

Wednesday, April 1

9:00 am Preschool
3:45 pm Hebrew School Art w/ Adina gr. 3

Thursday, April 2

Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 5:15pm when Hebrew School is in session.

YAHARZEITS

We recall with affection those who no longer walk this earth, grateful to G-d for the gift of their lives.

MARCH 27

Jeff Gutin

MARCH 28

Morris Saitz, Sarah Cohen

MARCH 29

Leah Flieschman, Jacob Schertz, June Singer

MARCH 30

Frieda Schramm, Gussie Landsman

MARCH 31

Anne Baisuck, Herman Slass

APRIL 1

Annie Cantor

APRIL 2

Belle Windt

INFORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS: 4/3, Preschool Seder at 11:30 pm; 4/4, 7th grade kiddush; 4/5, coffee hour @10:00 am then Sunday Morning Cultural Event featuring Raymond Street Klezmer Band @11:00 am;

PASSOVER: To date, we do not have many reservations for the 2nd Seder that will be held on April 9th at the Temple. Please send in your reservation forms if you plan on attending.

CHAMETZ FORMS: Available in the main entrance and office.