

בְּהַעֲלוֹתְךָ

B'ha'alotka

(when you go up)

B'midbar [Numbers] 8:1-12:16

The Menorah

B'midbar [Numbers] 8:1-4

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

2 "Speak to Aharon, and say to him, 'When you light the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the candlestick.'"

3 And Aharon did so; he lit the lamps thereof so as to give light in front of the candlestick, as YHWH commanded Moshe.

4 And this was the work of the candlestick, beaten work of gold; to the base thereof, and to the flowers thereof, it was beaten work; according to the pattern which YHWH had showed Moshe, so he made the candlestick.

The candlestick (menorah) was to give light in the Set-apart Place, which was just outside of the Most Set-apart Place. In order for the seven branches to give their light, YHWH commanded that the priests fill them with oil and then light them.

Shemot [Exodus] 27:20-21

20 "And you shall command the children of Yisrael, that they bring to you pure olive oil beaten for the light, to cause a lamp to burn continually.

21 In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aharon and his sons shall keep it in order from evening to morning before YHWH; it shall be a statute for ever throughout their generations on the behalf of the children of Yisrael."

As we can see in the above passage, YHWH has commanded us that we should keep the menorah lit as a perpetual statute forever. May YHWH cause us to be able to keep and do this commandment soon and in our day!

But what is the symbolism of this article of furniture that YHWH commanded Moshe to make and place in the Set-apart Place?

Most of us reading this, would understand that when Yeshua came into the world, He came to give light to this world of darkness.

Yochanan [John] 12:46

“I am come as light into the world, that whosoever believes on Me may not abide in the darkness.”

Please note, that if we believe upon Yeshua (believing includes hearing and obeying His commandments), then we will not be in darkness. But is this the only symbolism of the menorah? Why does it have seven branches with seven lights? After all, we only have one Mashiach. There is only one menorah; albeit, with seven branches.

Please prayerfully consider the following passages.

Gilyahna [Revelation] 1:4

Yochanan (John) to the seven churches that are in Asia; grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits that are before His throne;

Historically, the church has taught that the number seven represents the number of perfection. This is not wrong, because seven does represent the number of perfection. However, in this, they then claim that these seven Spirits are not seven in number, but seven symbolically, denoting the perfection of Elohim.

While Elohim is indeed perfect in every way, is this all there is to this passage? Does Scripture say anything about these seven Spirits?

Yeshayah [Isaiah] 11:2

And the Spirit of YHWH shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of YHWH.

Please note that there are seven names listed in this passage, each the name of a Spirit. Let us list them for ease of reference.

1. Spirit of YHWH
2. Spirit of wisdom
3. Spirit of understanding
4. Spirit of counsel
5. Spirit of might
6. Spirit of knowledge
7. Spirit of the fear of YHWH

Although the western Church historically has taught that there is only one Spirit of YHWH, we can see now that this is an incomplete picture. While there is indeed a Spirit by this name, it is only one of seven

mentioned in this passage. They taught this to be able to put forth their pagan concept of a trinity. In actual fact, there have been many manifestations of Elohim, and He is not limited to what man teaches.

YHWH commanded Moshe that he was to be very careful in constructing the menorah, so that it would be exactly like the pattern which YHWH showed him on the mountain. YHWH seems to have been concerned, that if it was not exactly like the pattern, then we may not get the right symbolism and lesson He placed there for our instruction.

Also, if it was not an exact replica of the one in heaven, then it would not function in like manner as the one in heaven. This would then hinder, or stop altogether, the flow of communication between YHWH and His people.

Setting Apart the Levites

B'midbar [Numbers] 8:5-13

5 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

6 "Take the Levites from among the children of Yisrael, and cleanse them.

7 And thus shall you do to them, to cleanse them; sprinkle purifying water upon them, and let them cause a razor to pass over all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and cleanse themselves.

8 Then let them take a young bull, and its meal-offering, fine flour mingled with oil; and another young bull shall you take for a sin-offering.

9 And you shall present the Levites before the tent of meeting; and you shall assemble the whole congregation of the children of Yisrael;

10 and you shall present the Levites before YHWH. And the children of Yisrael shall lay their hands upon the Levites;

11 and Aharon shall offer the Levites before YHWH for a wave-offering, on the behalf of the children of Yisrael, that it may be theirs to do the service of YHWH.

12 And the Levites shall lay their hands upon the heads of the bulls; and offer you the one for a sin-offering, and the other for a burnt-offering, to YHWH, to make atonement for the Levites.

13 And you shall set the Levites before Aharon, and before his sons, and offer them for a wave-offering to YHWH."

YHWH gives some very specific commandments on how He wanted and needed the Levites to be cleansed. If they left out any of these steps, or added steps to them (Elohim forbid!), then they would not have been properly cleansed and sanctified for service to YHWH.

In this cleansing process, there is a very striking parallel that seems quite pertinent to us today. In the process of being cleansed, they were to take two bulls, one of which was to be a sin offering. The thing that really stands out, is that in making atonement for the Levites with these two bulls, it is very much

like the two-goat sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, in which one of the goats was a sin-offering for the nation of Yisrael.

YHWH commanded the Levites to lay their hands upon the head of the bull that was to be the sin offering, thereby transferring their sin upon the bull. Now here is the interesting thing: before they were to lay their hands upon the bull, the entire nation was to lay their hands upon the Levites, thereby transferring their sin (the sins of the nation) upon the Levites. The Levites were to bear the sins of the nation before YHWH.

This is what the Scriptural priests are to do. They are to bear the sins of the people before YHWH. The Levites are a type of Mashiach, for this is exactly what Yeshua did for us.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 9:28

so Mashiach also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, to salvation.

The duty that YHWH has placed upon those He calls to be priests and Levites, is a heavy task to be sure; but it is one, which those so called, bear gladly for Him.

1st Timothy 5:22

Lay hands hastily on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins; keep thyself pure.

This laying on of hands is not just a one-way transference. Rather it is a two-way sharing of what one has, that can be either for good or for bad as the above verse indicates.

Marqos [Mark] 16:18b

“they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

The laying on of hands is a significant act that has an effect both upon the person doing the act, and also upon the person receiving the act. We should only lay hands upon another after prayerful consideration.

A Substitution

B'midbar [Numbers] 8:14-19

14 “Thus shall you separate the Levites from among the children of Yisrael; and the Levites shall be mine.

15 And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tent of meeting; and you shall cleanse them, and offer them for a wave-offering.

16 For they are wholly given to me from among the children of Yisrael; instead of all that opens the womb, even the first-born of all the children of Yisrael, have I taken them to me.

17 For all the first-born among the children of Yisrael are mine, both man and beast; on the day that I smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for Myself.

18 And I have taken the Levites instead of all the first-born among the children of Yisrael.

19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aharon and to his sons from among the children of Yisrael, to do the service of the children of Yisrael in the tent of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Yisrael; that there be no plague among the children of Yisrael, when the children of Yisrael come near the sanctuary.”

At the first Passover, when YHWH slew all the firstborn of Egypt, He sanctified to Himself all the firstborn of Yisrael. They all belong to Him! They were to be His priests.

However, this priesthood defiled itself with the incident of the golden calf, when they bowed their knees to an idol and image, and became involved in mixed worship. It seems that the tribe of Levi did not participate in this lewdness. As a result, YHWH exchanged all the firstborn of Yisrael for the tribe of Levi.

Here is the thing that we really need to see and understand in this passage. There are things (sinful things) that we can do, that will greatly reduce our eternal reward. Some of these things will not change the fact that we are still His people, but (Elohim forbid) if one makes certain very unwise choices (as being willfully involved in false worship when one knows better), then that one can expect to lose a significant portion of his eternal reward.

Ephrayim has been living in rebellion for over 2700 years. Rebellion has been deeply bred into Ephrayim. As a result of this, Ephrayim’s instinctive reaction to almost any given situation will entail some form of rebellion. If Ephrayim is going to claim as much of an eternal reward as possible, then he is going to have to get serious about putting away his rebellion, and come into full submission to those whom YHWH has placed in authority over him. The sooner he does this, the greater reward that those individuals will have! Why would we not want to do this? Rebellion; it is time to stop rebelling and start submitting to His Spirit in all matters great and small.

Obedience to the Commandment

B’midbar [Numbers] 8:20-22

20 Thus did Moshe, and Aharon, and all the congregation of the children of Yisrael, to the Levites; according to all that YHWH commanded Moshe touching the Levites, so did the children of Yisrael to them.

21 And the Levites purified themselves from sin, and they washed their clothes; and Aharon offered them for a wave-offering before YHWH; and Aharon made atonement for them to cleanse them.

22 And after that went the Levites in to do their service in the tent of meeting before Aharon, and before his sons; as YHWH had commanded Moshe concerning the Levites, so did they to them.

If we are to take this passage literally (and I see no reason not to), then this gives us an indication of the kind of physical shape that Aharon (and quite likely his sons also) was in, at the age of 80+ years. For it states in verse 21 above, that Aharon offered the Levites as a wave offering to YHWH. We learned back in chapter three that there were over 22,000 Levites.

To pick up one child and wave him is not too bad. But add to that thousands of children, and then on top of that full grown men, it becomes a feat of no small consequence.

What it actually shows is the presence of YHWH's Spirit!

Zecharyah [Zechariah] 4:6b

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says YHWH of hosts.

The Ministry Years

B'midbar [Numbers] 8:23-26

23 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

24 "This is that which belongs to the Levites; from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service in the work of the tent of meeting;

25 and from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the work, and shall serve no more,

26 but shall minister with their brethren in the tent of meeting, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites concerning their charges."

Then YHWH gives the commandment of when the years of ministry are to be. It is during the years of one's strength from the age of 25 to the age of 50. At the age of fifty, one does not retire in the western understanding of that word. Rather, they become the teachers of those coming along behind them, so that they can pass on the wisdom that YHWH has given to them over the years.

May YHWH give us the wisdom to learn from our elders, so that we do not have to repeat the same mistakes that they made! Amein.

Passover

B'midbar [Numbers] 9:1-8

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

2 "Moreover let the children of Yisrael keep the Passover in its appointed season.

3 In the fourteenth day of this month, between the evenings, you shall keep it in its appointed season; according to all the statutes of it, and according to all the ordinances thereof, shall you keep it."

4 And Moshe spoke to the children of Yisrael, that they should keep the Passover.

5 And they kept the Passover in the first (month), on the fourteenth day of the month, between the evenings, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that YHWH commanded Moshe, so did the children of Yisrael.

6 And there were certain men, who were unclean by reason of the dead body of a man, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day; and they came before Moshe and before Aharon on that day;

7 and those men said to him, "We are unclean by reason of the dead body of a man; wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer the offering of YHWH in its appointed season among the children of Yisrael?"

8 And Moshe said to them, "You stay, that I may hear what YHWH will command concerning you."

As it came to be the time of the year in which Pesach (Passover) was to be kept, YHWH reminds Yisrael that they should be doing this every year. What really catches our attention, is verse five, in which it is recorded that Yisrael kept this Pesach according to all of YHWH's commandments!

There seem to be three major things today that Ephrayim in particular gets hung up on, when it comes to celebrating and obeying the Torah of the Pesach:

1. keeping it on the right day (late 14th),
2. understanding the need to be circumcised, and
3. understanding the need to keep all the Pesach commandments today.

Let us briefly look at each of these.

In verses three and five above, and in verse 11 below, we see the phrase "between the evenings" as the time listed in relation to the 14th of the month in which the Aviv is sighted. In Hebraic thought and culture, the day begins at sunset. So that would make the end of the day, what we understand as afternoon. What we now call the afternoon, would be the evening of the day in Hebraic thought.

YHWH commands us to kill the Pesach on the 14th between the evenings.

Shemot [Exodus] 12:6

"and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Yisrael shall kill it between the evenings."

In order for this to happen it must be on the 14th of the month, which means that it will be eaten on the 15th of the month after sunset. If one were to kill the Pesach on the 13th and eat it on the 14th, then the command to kill it on the 14th, would not be obeyed. See the *Pesach* study for more detailed information.

At this point, we can surmise that Yisrael was actively circumcising their male babies on the eighth day after they were born, because it is recorded that Yisrael kept this Pesach according to all the commandments of YHWH, and circumcision is certainly one of those commandments.

Shemot [Exodus] 12:48

“And when a stranger shall sojourn with you, and will keep the Passover to YHWH, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land; but no uncircumcised person shall eat of it.”

And finally, the last point that many seem to stumble on is the following verse.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:13-14

13 “Take heed to yourself that you offer not your burnt-offerings in every place that you see; 14 but in the place which YHWH shall choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt-offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.”

However, in order to truly keep this passage in its proper context, one needs to look at the chapter as a whole. When one does this, one finds the following passages that really change how one should perceive the passage above.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:1

“These are the statutes and the ordinances which you shall observe to do in the land which YHWH, the Elohim of your fathers, has given you to possess it, all the days that you live upon the land.”

Please notice, that this chapter in particular, is dealing with Yisrael as they dwell in the Land. It is not dealing with Yisrael when she dwells outside the land. In fact, notice the following passage.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:21

“If the place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose, to put his name there, be too far from you, then you shall kill of your herd and of your flock, which YHWH has given you, as I have commanded you; and you may eat within your gates, after all the desire of your being.”

Truly now, how many of us can actually afford to go to Jerusalem three times a year to keep His appointed times? And if we could, would we be allowed to keep His appointed times according to what YHWH has commanded in Scripture (particularly Pesach)?

And in Devarim 16, does it not give us a slightly different set of commandments for keeping Pesach while in the Land? To be sure it does! This difference seems to focus upon what sacrifices are to be given in the Mishkan, and the individual family's lamb that is to be killed and eaten in each home. When we understand this basic difference, then can walk more fully in His commandments.

Passover Continued

B'midbar [Numbers] 9:9-14

9 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

10 "Speak to the children of Yisrael, saying, 'If any man of you or of your generations shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be on a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the Passover to YHWH.

11 In the second month on the fourteenth day between the evenings they shall keep it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs;

12 they shall leave none of it to the morning, nor break a bone thereof: according to all the statutes of the Passover they shall keep it.

13 But the man that is clean, and is not on a journey, and does not keep the Passover, that being shall be cut off from his people; because he offered not the offering of YHWH in its appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.

14 And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the Passover to YHWH; according to the statute of the Passover, and according to the ordinance thereof, so shall he do; you shall have one statute, both for the sojourner, and for him that is born in the land."

YHWH now gives us a commandment just in case one is not able to keep Pesach according to His commandments on the 14th day of the first month. YHWH makes provision for His people to be able to keep Pesach on the 14th day of the following month. No other appointed time has this provision. This gives us a good indication of just how important this appointed time is to YHWH, and the importance of keeping it by obeying all of the statutes that YHWH commanded concerning this festival.

Please note, that YHWH states once again, that there is only one Torah. The same applies to all, whether that person is native born, or one who willingly and voluntarily joins himself to Yisrael.

Everyone is under the same commandment to keep Pesach. Everyone shall be circumcised. Everyone shall eat of the Pesach in its proper season, or else the consequence of not doing so, is being cut off from Yisrael. That is basically a death sentence.

YHWH did not create us to walk the walk of faith alone. To attempt to do so is foolhardy!

Abiding in Him

In this Parasha we have seen several things. Among those things, we have seen how the menorah was symbolic of Yeshua and the Spirits of YHWH. We have looked at how YHWH commanded the Levites to be cleansed. We looked at how Yisrael kept Pesach; and YHWH carefully warned them that if they would not keep Pesach according to His commandments, then they would be cut off from Yisrael. Basically, they would not be His people.

Please consider the following words of our Master Yeshua.

Yochanan [John] 15:1-14

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the Husbandman.

2 Every branch in Me that bears not fruit, He takes it away; and every branch that bears fruit, He cleanses it, that it may bear more fruit.

3 Already you are clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; so neither can you, except you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches; He that abides in Me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatsoever you will, and it shall be done to you.

8 Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so shall you be My disciples.

9 Even as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; you abide in My love.

10 If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

11 These things have I spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are My friends, if you do the things which I command you."

Let us also keep these words of Yeshua in mind that we looked at above.

Yochanan [John] 12:46

"I am come as light into the world, that whosoever believes on Me may not abide in the darkness."

There are several things in Yeshua's words in the two passages above, that very much parallel our Parasha this week. Let us put it in chart form for ease of understanding.

Foreshadowing	Mashiach
Menorah	Light of world
Cleansing Levites	Cleansing disciples
Ministry years	Bearing fruit for Him
Cut off for disobedience	Branches cut off for disobedience
Substitution of Levites	Mashiach lays down His life for us
Obedience to the command	Obedience to Yeshua

It is important for us today to fully understand that Yeshua has commanded us to lay down our lives for Him, in much the same way that He laid down His life for us. But not only this, we are to lay down our lives for one another to show that we truly have His love. There really is no room for selfish behavior in His Kingdom. Not then, and certainly not now!

Yeshua has made it quite clear, that if we are to be His disciples, then what He expects from us, is to bear fruit for Him. So here is the question for each and every one of us to prayerfully consider today. What fruit are you bearing for Him right now? And if you are not bearing any fruit for Him right now, then what do you need to change so that you can bear fruit for Him?

Some will say, "But you do not understand my particular circumstances!"

As Yeshua said:

Matityah [Matthew] 8:22

But Yeshua said to him, "Follow me; and let the dead bury their own dead."

There are many things in this life that seem to be worthy of our time, but in eternity do not make any difference. What are you doing to further His Kingdom in your own life and in the lives of those around you?

It is time that Ephrayim come to terms with the words of Yeshua, and get with His commandments, and stop making lame excuses, and start working to build His Kingdom, rather than building their own little empires!

ABBA YHWH, we desire to bear fruit for You and Your kingdom. We do not desire to build our own little broken down empires! Cleanse us and purify us that we may walk before you to please you in everything that we say and everything that we do; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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