

Parashah 26 Sh'mini - שְׁמִינִי
“Eighth”



Torah: Vayikra (Leviticus) 9:1 – 11:47

- Aliyah 1 - 9:1 - 16 Eighth Day: The ministry of the Aharonic priesthood commences
Aliyah 2 - 9:17 - 23 Aharon blesses the people after the offerings; the glory of ADONAI appears
Aliyah 3 - 9:24 - 10:11 Fire consumes the offerings; Nadav and Avihu offer unauthorized fire and die
Aliyah 4 - 10:12 - 15 Moshe instructs Aharon and his remaining sons, El'azar and Itamar
Aliyah 5 - 10:16 - 20 Center of Torah: Moshe carefully investigates sin offering, and approves
Aliyah 6 - 11:1 - 32 Clean and unclean creatures defined
Aliyah 7 - 11:33 - 47 Purpose of Law concerning clean and unclean, edible and non edible creatures

Haftarah: Sh'mu'el Bet (2 Samuel) 6:1-7:17

B'rit Hadashah: Acts 10:9-22, 34-35

1. (9:1-24) The laws of the Tabernacle services provided the most detailed guidelines in all of scripture regarding the service of worship. What was their purpose? How does this apply to all the laws of Torah?
2. (9:24) God's presence was displayed in a very powerful way on the first day of the priestly service. Did it happen that way every day?
3. (10:2) Why were Nadav and Avihu killed? What are the similarities and differences with the death of 'Uzah in the haftarah portion?
4. (10:6) Why were Aharon and his sons prevented from mourning for their loss? Do you think that was fair? Does this say anything to us about the "heavenly" tabernacle? Why did Aharon not eat the meat of the sacrifice? How does this compare with what Nadav and Avihu did?
5. (11:1-3) What two types of creatures are defined? What four categories of creatures does the Torah define?
6. To whom do the dietary laws apply? Is it "legalism" to obey the dietary laws? Why or why not?

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7. What are some practical reasons for obeying the dietary laws? What reason does the scripture give for obeying them?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (11:47) How do the biblical concepts of “clean” and “unclean” apply to your life? (Deu 30:19, 2Co 6:14-18, Mat 5:19, 1Jo 1:6-7)
2. (9:17) God is a God of order, and He never changes. Do you walk in His ways, or those of your own? (Pro3:6, 2Sa 6:6-11, Mat 3:13-17, Mar 1:43-44, Joh 14:6, 1Co 14:33)
3. (9:24) Depending on signs and wonders can destroy our faith. How do you look for God’s acceptance and pleasure? (Heb 11:6, Joh 4:24, 2Ch 7:1-3, Isa 29:13-14, Jud 6:21, 1Ki 18:36,38, 1Ch 21:26, Luk 9:56)
4. (10:12) The priesthood partook of the offerings brought by the people. How do you support those who minister and serve you? (Deu 25:4, 1Co 9:4-14, Luk 10:5-11, Eph 4:11, 1Ti 5:18)
5. (10:16) Do you inquire (look into, learn) about the truth? To what source(s) do you turn? (Luk 1:3-4, Act 17:10-12, Act 19:1-6, 2Ti 3:14-15, 1Pe 1:10-12)
6. (11:2) How do you determine what is food (physical, spiritual, visual, etc.) for you? (Lev 10:10, Psa 34:5, 2Pe 3:13-14, Phil 4:8-9, 1Co 10:23, Mar 7:15-23)
7. (11:33) You are an “earthenware vessel.” What do you allow inside your life? How does it affect you? (Mat 23:25-27, Luk 11:39-41, Mar 7:14-23, 2Co 4:7-9, Phil 4:7-8, 1Jo 1:9)