



Understanding the Parsha

Leviticus 1:1 –9

We will Learn how to

- 1) **interpret the main theme (subject) of a Parsha** (weekly reading from the Torah),
- 2) **make thematic connections to that Parsha** (study the Scriptures related by a common theme [subject], line upon line and precept upon precept)
- 3) **learn how to gain greater understanding of the Parsha we are looking at through its thematic connections to other portions of Scripture.**

Moses the Faithful Servant

I. In the book of Exodus, we learned that Adonai was about to “make Himself known” as YHVH. One part of what He revealed about Himself was His Holiness and man not being able to come near to Him because of our unholiness. In other sidras before, we learned about the difficulty of drawing near to Adonai. As we begin to see the Holiness of Adonai, we will see the sinfulness of man. The book of Leviticus will begin to show us those things that cause man to fall short of the holiness of Adonai.

Also, in our ever-growing understanding of the way the Mishkan works, we have mostly learned about the instructions concerning how the priests interact with it. Leviticus will now shift the focus to how **Israel—each individual—will approach and interact with the Mishkan**. Let’s not lose sight of the fact that **the real issue is how Israel draws near to approach Adonai**.

So we can understand that the main theme taught by Leviticus is about how to draw near to Adonai, we will take a closer look at the Hebrew word for offering.

The Hebrew word for offering is corban (קרבן). This word, corban, is the Hebrew word for **offering** and it is used a lot in this week's sidra.

The root for the word **offering/corban** is קרב, which means coming near! As you can see, this understanding of its meaning is **TOTALLY LOST** in the translation of Scriptures! This is where knowing a little Hebrew will help you. You don't need to be an expert.

Understanding the real meaning of the word corban/offering you could actually say it like this, "When a man brings a **drawing near** to YHVH..." Sounds a little funny, but that is what the word is actually saying.

If you have been doing these studies from the book of Exodus until now, you should be able to see how this one word highlights one of the important teachings of the Torah in Exodus. **How does sinful man draw near to a Holy God? Through blood sacrifice!**

II. In this week's study we want to practice interpreting passages thematically. Sometimes when the Torah begins to give a lot of details in a Parsha we tend to lose sight of their thematic significance.

Read the first Parsha (Leviticus 1:1-9). I am going to ask you some questions about some of the themes in these verses. At first, you may not understand what I'm asking for, but as you go through the questions you'll understand the point I'm trying to make.

Some Hebrew—The Hebrew word for whole burnt offering/burnt offering/burnt sacrifice is **olah**, לֶהֱעֹל

A. What thematic understanding is presented in Leviticus 1:3 about the type of sacrifice?

The offering being talked about is called a W b o (or an ascending /elevation offering). This is an **olah**.

B. What thematic understanding is presented in Leviticus 1:3 about the quality of the sacrifice?

The sacrifice had to be U, which meant physically sound and whole.

C. What thematic understanding is presented in Leviticus 1:3 concerning the location of the sacrifice?

It was to be brought to the T o M. This is no minor detail, as we shall see in later studies.

D. What thematic understanding is presented in Leviticus 1:3 concerning the motivation for bringing the sacrifice?

It is brought V, i.e., this offering was not required.

E. What is the theme of Leviticus 1:4-5a?

I for the one offering the sacrifice.



