SH'MINI { שְׁמִינִי } (Eighth)

Leviticus 9:1-11:47; 2 Samuel 6:1-7:17; Hebrews 7:1-19

'Sh'mini', the title of this week's parashah, means 'eighth' (8th), and comes from the opening Scripture where Moses called for Aaron and his sons to begin offering sacrifices קָרְבָּנוֹת) , korbanot) to YHWH.

These sacrifices were offered as a kind of 'Inaugurating ceremony' to welcome the arrival of YAH's Shekinah Glory Presence.

Both last week, and the previous week, we discussed the whole issue of sacrifice – the type of sacrifice that is pleasing to YHWH – and Yeshua's final, Perfect Sacrifice.

We discussed how a 'right heart and obedience' seems to matter more YHWH than even the sacrifice itself; and that the sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise is perhaps the highest form of sacrifice.

Even though the Temple is destroyed and we no longer offer these Levitical sacrifices, knowing Yeshua is the final 'korban'; there are still other sacrifices which we can offer up to YHWH.

Paul says that our generous acts of love and service toward one another are a sweet-smelling aroma and well pleasing to YHWH.

When we break out of our own self-centeredness and reach out to others with sacrificial love, kindness and practical help, this actually fills the throne room of YHWH with a fragrance that brings Him pleasure.

The Word also reminds us to be Living sacrifices unto Yeshua, daily without seizing.

This means we have to be a sacrifice all the time! Giving up the self and live a Holy set apart life as He lovingly instruct in His Torah – this we do out of pure love and adoration for Yeshua!

Yeshua says in John 14:15 – If you love ME you WILL keep MY commandments.

It is the beginning of Aaron and his sons' priestly ministry – but something went terribly wrong! Nadav and Avihu, Aaron's two eldest sons, perished in the blink of an eye –

devoured by the consuming fire of YHWH.

Why? It is not entirely clear but Torah only says they offered 'strange fire' which YHWH had not commanded.

THEY DID IT THEIR WAY!! SOUNDS FAMILIAR??

LET US WALK ACCORDING TO THE WORD AND COMMANDMENTS OF YHWH AND NOT HOW WE THINK IT SHOULD BE, ACCORDING TO OUR TRADITIONS!

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN ANIMALS FOR FOOD ARE ALSO DISCUSSED – YHWH HAS NOT CHANGED AND CANNOT CHANGE – TAKE NOTE!