

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Blood, guts, and fire – the opening words of Sefer Vayikra are dripping with the butchery of animal sacrifice. From our perspective it can sometimes be difficult to relate to this theme as it dominates the next two *parashiyot* and recurs across the rest of the Torah.



The emphasis that Judaism places on sacrifice – which was central to ancient Israelite society and still holds a special position in our worship texts today (think Musaf) – demands that we take a second look and ask ourselves what meaning we can derive from the priestly cult in our lives.

To whet our appetite for a much deeper discussion than what is possible in the pages of Kol Mevasser, let us reflect on the conclusions of three important Parshanim (Biblical commentators):

The view of Maimonides (12th century Andalusia and North Africa) is that God instituted animal sacrifice to defeat the paganism of contemporary Biblical society. If the Egyptians venerated sheep and the Chaldeans revered goat-demons, then a Jewish worship calling for the slaughter of these animals would give the lie to idolatry and prove that there is only one single, all-powerful God. (Guide for the Perplexed, III:46)

In opposition to this, Nachmanides (13th century Catalonia) proposes that each stage of the sacrificial ritual is an expression of regret for sinful behavior. Since immoral speech first gives voice to a sin, we use moral speech to confess our shortcomings over the sacrifice. Since our inner thoughts sustain the sin in the world, we burn the internal organs that sustained the animal in the world. And since our arms and legs carry out the sin, we burn the limbs that once enacted the animal's will. (Commentary to Ex. 1:9)

Finally, the Sforno (16th century Papal States) suggests that the goal of the sacrifices is to draw closer to God by publicly expressing deference through an altruistic gift. Even now that there are no animal sacrifices, we can evoke the spirit of this idea through Hos. 14:3, which asks that "the prayers of our lips replace the sacrifice of cows." In other words, giving of ourselves sincerely in the service of God is an act that fulfills the intent of the sacrifices. (Commentary to Ex. 1:2)

Each of these positions is challenging, and solves only some of the problems inherent to a commandment that God never explains. Still, each gives us a different, rich model of what He might hope to see from us in the world – a goal towards which we can strive. As we read of these ancient practices, may they always overflow with inner meanings that can inspire us to leave the best possible imprint on the world!

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Vayikra Shabbat Zachor

Torah: Lev. 1:1–5:26, Deut. 25:17-19
Hz 410–423, 856; Stn 544-567, 1066
Haftarah: I Samuel 15:1–34
Hertz 995–998, Stone 1214–1216
Tefillot: Mashib Haruah, Mi Khamokha
Birkat Halebana

KJ Schedule

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, March 18th

Shaharit 6:15 am
Minhah..... 6:45 pm SHARP
Shabbat Candle Lighting 6:45 pm
Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat.... 7:15 pm

Yom Shabbat

Shabbat Zachor

Saturday, March 19th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer.. 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am

Minhah..... 6:15 pm
Se'udah Shelisheet..... 7:00 pm

Arbit 7:35 pm
Habdalah 7:49 pm

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Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Education Center
**Kahal Joseph Talmud Torah
 & Sunday School**



Friends Creativity Jewish Learning

For information contact
 Mrs. Hanna Elkouby, Director
 at 424-283-0893



**Mommy
 & Me
 at KJ**

Kahal Joseph and PlayCreations Kids are thrilled to announce Mommy and Me classes starting Thursday, April 14 in Kahal Joseph's playroom. Each class starts with 30 minutes of music, instruments, scarves, & parachute time followed by a sensory art project, like finger painting or edible sand. Classes are by age group, and are planned to engage all five senses, and encourage development of motor & language skills.

Eight sessions, starting Thursday, April 14
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - 6 months to 1 year
 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - 1 year to 18 months
 Cost: \$215 for 8 weeks

For information, contact Jessica at
jessica@kahaljoseph.org or 217.972.8993

Congratulations

Roya Melamed
 & Benjamin Moses
 on your wedding

Mazal Tov
 to the parents
 Mr. & Mrs. Melamed
 Mr. & Mrs. Moses

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from March 19 to 26, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

9 Adar II / Shabbat, March 19th

Victoria Levy Victoria bat Hanina

10 Adar II / Sunday, March 20th

Clara Solomon Gala bat Masouda
 Menashe Solomon Menashe ben Shlomo
 Reuven

12 Adar II / Tuesday, March 22nd

David Shapiro Dovid ben Chaim

13 Adar II / Wednesday, March 23rd

Kodadad ben Yair

Condolences

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Sylvia Daniels, z"l, who left this world on Thursday, March 10th in London, England. She was the sister of our dear member, Michael Amron. Our condolences go to Michael, Moselle, & the entire Amron family on their loss. May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion.

KJ Schedule

(continued)

Weekdays

Sunday, March 20th

Shaharit 7:30 am
 Talmud Torah (1 hour)..... 10:00 am
KJ Purim Carnival..... 11 am to 4 pm

Monday & Tuesday, March 21 & 22

Shaharit 6:25 am

Taanit Esther

Wednesday, March 23rd

Fast Begins 5:37 am
 Shaharit with Torah Reading 6:15 am
 Minhah with Birkat Kohanim 6:45 pm
 Fast Ends (Sephardim)..... 7:30 pm

Lel Purim / Purim Night

Wednesday, March 23rd

Arbit with Megillah Reading 7:30 pm
 Light Dinner w/Hamantaschen..... 8:35 pm

Yom Purim / Purim Day

Thursday, March 24th

Shaharit with Megillah Reading ... 6:00 am

Ereb Shabbat / Friday, March 25th

Shaharit 6:25 am
 Minhah..... 6:45 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting 6:50 pm
 Arbit / Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 pm

Refuah Shelemah

Abe Abraham • Moselle Amron
 Sally Amron • Tilda Levy • Esther Duke
 Mordechai Cohen • Sylvia Cohen • Lev Hakak
 Maurice Ovadia • Florice Newberry
 Doris Moshi • Miriam bat Yetta • Sassoon Ezra

Thank You

to All Who Volunteered and
Baked for KJ's Purim Baskets

Jacob Aguilar	Fereshteh Mastour
Tooraj Aghalar	Melanie McQueen
Jilla Arastehmanish	Jessica Melhado
Nicole Aslemand	Rabbi Raif Melhado
Florette Benhamou	Roya Najibi
Yvette Dabby	Rosy Nissan
Eva Dloomy	Norman Reiz
Ben Elias	Renee Reiz
Sophie Elias	Jaimie Nissan Reuben
David Elias	Yulhianna Sarabia
Louise Elias	Ashley Saroudi
Lulu Fensten	Nasrin Saroudi
Tikva Iny	Yvonne Sheeri
Melissa Ironi	Widad Shiri
Sally Joseph	Penina Solomon
Mickey Kahtan	Gilda Tawfik-Coco
Judith Levy	Ezra Zakoo

*And we especially thank Yvette Dabby who
organizes this mitzvah event each year*

Kahal Joseph 2016 11th Annual Purim Carnival

Event Chairs

Jonathan S. Kelly Jessica Melhado

Event Committee

**Sarah Bouchoucha • Yvette Dabby • Ron Einy
Louise Elias • Dafna Young • Penina Solomon**

Booth Sponsors

Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar	Tikva & Yoel Iny
Yvette & Joseph Dabby	The Ironi Family
Julie & Mark Darwish	Hannie Kelly
Joe David	Michelle & Stan Kurtz
Letizia & Ron Einy	The Mussry Family
Rylla & Ben Elias	Sandra & Eddie Sarraf
The Ezra Family	Karmela & Paul Youssefmir
Ruth & Edmond Hagooli	Alice Zekaria

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

RIDES & GAMES

BEST Prizes, Prizes, PRIZES!

Hot Dogs! FALAFEL! Hamburgers!
Snowcones, Candy & MORE!

Kahal Joseph Congregation



Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 20th
11 am to 4 pm



\$20 Game & Ride Wristbands ♦ \$1 Tickets

Wristbands are good for games and rides only.

Tickets for food and special services must be purchased separately.

For more information call 310.474.0559

Upcoming Events

Ta'anit Esther/Fast of Esther

Wednesday, March 23

5:37 am Fast Begins / 7:30 pm Fast Ends Sephardim

6:15 am Prayer Services with Torah Reading

6:45 pm Minhah with Birkat Kohanim



Lel Purim / Purim Night

Wednesday, March 23

7:30 pm Arbit with

Megillah Reading

8:35 pm Light Dinner with Hamantashen

Yom Purim / Purim Day

Thursday, March 24

6:00 am Shaharit with Megillah Reading

Coffee & Backgammon

Sunday, March 27

Join us for an evening of coffee, conversation & backgammon for adults.



Interactive Family Haggadah

Sunday, April 17 @ 12 pm

Kids, parents & grandparents, join us
for an interactive presentation of the

Passover story with something for toddlers through
grade schoolers. Enjoy a delicious lunch, and make a
craft to use at your seder! Email Jessica at

Jessica@kahaljoseph.org
for more information or to RSVP.



Mimouna

Sunday, May 1

Traditional celebration & community
gathering after Passover