

PARSHAT TETZAVEH, YEAR 3

Shemot (Exodus) 29 ³⁸Now this is what you shall offer* upon the altar: two yearling lambs each day, *tamid*[†]. ³⁹You shall offer the one lamb in the morning, and you shall offer the other lamb at twilight.[‡] ⁴⁰There shall be a tenth of an *ephah*[§] of choice flour with a quarter of a *hin*^{**} of beaten oil mixed in, and a libation of a quarter *hin* of wine for one lamb; ⁴¹and you shall offer the other lamb at twilight, like the morning's grain offering you shall do it as a pleasing fragrance to יהוה, ⁴²a burnt offering *tamid* throughout the generations, at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting before יהוה. For there I will meet with you, and speak to you there.

⁴³And I will meet there with the Israelites, and it shall be consecrated through My *kavod*.^{††} ⁴⁴And I shall consecrate the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and I will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve Me as priests. ⁴⁵I will abide^{‡‡} among the Israelites, and I will be their God. ⁴⁶And they shall know that I am יהוה their God, who brought them out from the land of Egypt that I might abide among them. I am יהוה their God.

30 ¹You shall make an altar for burning incense; make it of acacia wood. ²It shall be a cubit long and a cubit wide — it shall be square — and two cubits high, its horns of one piece with it. ³Overlay it with pure gold: its top, its sides round about, and its horns; and make a gold molding for it round about. ⁴And make two gold rings for it beneath its rim; make them on its two side walls, on opposite sides. They shall serve as holders for poles with which to carry it. ⁵Make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ⁶Place it in front of the curtain that is over the Ark of the Covenant — in front of the cover that is over the Covenant — where I will meet with you. ⁷On it Aaron shall burn aromatic incense: he shall burn it every morning when he tends the lamps, ⁸and Aaron shall burn it at twilight when he lights the lamps — a regular incense offering before יהוה throughout the ages. ⁹You shall not offer extraneous incense on it, or a burnt offering or a meal offering; neither shall you pour a libation on it. ¹⁰Once a year Aaron shall perform purification upon its horns with blood of the purification offering; purification shall be performed upon it once a year throughout the ages. It is most holy^{§§} to יהוה.

* Lit, “do” here and in the next three vv.

† *regular(ly), continual(ly), perpetual(ly), ongoing*

‡ Lit *beyn ha-arbayim* “between the two settings/departings.” Most modern commentators understand this as “twilight,” between sunset and darkness. Rabbinic sources interpret this “from noon on,” the first setting occurring when the sun passes its zenith at noon and the shadows begin to lengthen.

§ about 2.3 liters (2.1 dry quarts)

** about a gallon

†† *Kavod* has multiple meanings (e.g., weight, honor). In this and in similar contexts in the Torah, it signifies a manifestation of the divine presence and is often translated “glory.”

‡‡ root שכן *shakhan*, same root as *shekhinah*.

§§ lit “holy of holies”