


CHABAD

RESEARCH UNIT

שבת..... *for Friday nights*..... קדש

Friday 31 March 2017 - 4 Nisan 5777
Sedra Vayikra

TEMPLE TECHNOLOGY

A NEW BOOK OF THE TORAH BEGINS THIS WEEK.
IN HEBREW it is called Vayikra, which is its first word, meaning ‘and He called’, G-d called to Moses¹. This book tells us about the Temple, the point of connection between G-d and the world.

In most buildings there is a junction box, installed by the electricity board. The cable from the power station is connected to the junction box, where there are special fuses and connections. From the junction box electric power is fed to the many rooms of the house.

Get it? The “power station” is G-d’s infinite life-force, the source of all power and all existence in the universe. The junction box is the Temple. When the Temple is standing and is functioning properly then power is fed in the right way to all the different parts of the world. Everyone is happy.

If, unfortunately, the junction box and the system of fuses and connections are damaged, then the distribution of power goes wrong. The rooms which need a lot of light are dim, and may even be in darkness. Parts of the building which should be warm, are freezing cold. On the other hand too much power might have a bad effect, sometimes (G-d forbid) starting a fire.



In Loving Memory of Mrs Jeanne Gewolb-Sostrin
 (Yenta bas Devora) ה"ע - 15 Tevet 5772
 Dedicated by her son Dr Roger Gewolb שי'

An ordinary junction box is a one-way system. Power comes from the power station outside into the building. But there are more sophisticated systems with constant feedback. That is what the Temple is like. A junction box for connecting the world to G-d, with full feedback facilities. The feedback is the Temple service, and indeed the response in the daily life of every Jew, which connects back to G-d.

The book of Vayikra tells us in detail how to carry out the Temple service, so as to connect the world with G-d and draw divine life-force into the world in the proper way. However, at this moment, the Temple in Jerusalem is still in ruins, and the Jewish people, who have the job of running the Temple, are in exile.

For this reason there is chaos in many parts of the world.

The Torah tells us how to connect with G-d, even when the proper junction box is broken. We do this through all the details of Jewish life. Although the actual Temple is not there, each Synagogue and every Jewish home is a little connecting box, called 'a small Temple' bringing the light and warmth of G-d into our lives - and helping us to relate back to Him.

But our hope is that soon the task of repairing the junction system will be completed, and the Temple connection will again be working, bringing peace and true happiness into the world. Hopefully this will be before the forthcoming Pesach festival.

There will be a great and joyful scramble to get to Jerusalem, and offer the Pesach lamb in the Temple Courtyard, on the eve of Pesach (Monday 10 April), and then, that evening, eat it roasted at the Seder. At the end of the Seder we declare 'Next year in Jerusalem!'. Let us rather proclaim now, our plea to G-d: 'This year in Jerusalem!'

1. The first Sedra is also called Vayikra, and is Lev.chs. 1-5.

Torah teachings are holy - please treat this page with care
SPONSORED BY DR REUVEN JOEL



53

SEDRA VAYIKRA

GENUINE GIFTS

It was Jeremy's birthday, and Barry couldn't think of any present to give his friend. This one was too expensive, that wasn't *him*, it wasn't his *style*. In fact, when he thought about it, he couldn't think of anything Jeremy liked.

All Barry could think of were things he himself liked, so he decided that he would get something he himself would like, and if Jeremy didn't like it, then he could just give it back and they would both be better off.

Barry grinned and then went to his father to ask him if he could take him to the shops so he could get something.

In the car, Barry's father asked, "So, what are you planning on getting?"

Barry shrugged. "I don't know; I think maybe something that I'd like, and if Jeremy doesn't like it he could just give it back to me."

Barry's father chuckled. "Smart, but more selfish than nice. I don't think you should get something with the hope he won't like it! Rather get something you know he'd like."

"Sure, but I don't know what he likes."

"I thought he was a rather bookish boy. I could suggest some books he might like. Or you could just buy him a book voucher and then he could choose whatever book he wants."

He looked over at Barry. “The most important thing is that the gift is genuine. It should come from you.”

“That’s ironic, what you said about the whole genuine thing. We learned something similar in school about Sedra Vayikra, about bringing offerings to G-d.”

“And what did you learn?”

“Well, it says that ‘if a man wants to bring an offering, from you should be the offering to G-d’. This means that the offering must come from *within him*.”

“That’s interesting” said his father.

“And then our teacher explained that the animal offering in a way is one’s own Animal Soul, one’s selfish desires, that tell a person to do things like lying and stealing...”

“And giving gifts with the hopes that the person won’t like it and will give it back,” his father finished off for Barry.

Barry blushed. “Yes, I suppose that too.”

“Well, recognising it helps one deal with it!” said his father. “And *from you* can also mean that it must be genuine, from the heart. Very good, Barry!”

“Thanks.”

Barry’s father pulled up into a parking space and they got out. “So book voucher it is then?” he asked.

“Book voucher it is,” Barry said. “A present from my heart...”

***Torah teachings are holy –
please treat this page with care***