



DKJA

Parshat Vayikra Leviticus 1:1 to 5:26

The third book of the Torah, Leviticus, interrupts the story of the history of Israel. The Israelites finished building the Tabernacle at the end of the book of Exodus, and the account of their forty years of wandering in the desert will continue in the Book of Numbers. After constructing the Tabernacle, which was completed in Exodus, this book focuses on how the Israelites should use the Tabernacle. They should worship G-d by offering animal sacrifices. If G-d is not a person and has no body, why would G-d want the Israelites to bring sacrifices of food? What do we mean by the word sacrifice? What does the word sacrifice mean in this Torah portion?

While we do not entertain the idea of animal sacrifice, the term sacrifice is very much part of the religious vocabulary in a different sense. Sacrifice means giving up something precious for the sake of a greater value. In the highest sense, sacrifice is to offer one's self, or in the ultimate sense to offer oneself for something important.

Sacrifice of one's time, convenience, ideas, aspiration, giving up a dream for something greater is the more proper definition of sacrifice.

To sacrifice for one's religious beliefs for a better world, and for a better society, are ideas that transcend the individual worth. It is obvious there are no religious beliefs for a better world and for a better society. They are ideas that transcend the individual worth. It is obvious there is no religion without the concept of sacrifice. In fact there is no noble cause of any kind without sacrifice.

When the second temple was destroyed in the year 70 CE, Jews stopped practicing animal sacrifices. Prayer took the place of animal sacrificed in Judaism. Traditionally, Jews pray three times a day. The three voluntary offerings: burnt, meat, and well-being, came to represent the three daily services.

Food for Thought:

1. Why were sacrifices offered in Biblical times?
2. Do you feel that prayer has really replaced sacrifices?
3. What sacrifices are you making for your religion, or, for a worthy cause?

Shabbat Shalom
Candle lighting is 7:13 pm



Jewish Federation
OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY