

Parashah Tzav

The one that gives instructions to Aaron and his sons as they step up to their roles as religious leaders.

Parashah Tzav gives **specific instructions for various types of offerings**, including the meal offering and peace offering. These offerings are presented as rituals that require special preparation and presentation. The parashah goes over the importance of sticking to exact procedures. The meal offering consists of fine flour, oil, and frankincense, while the peace offering involves shared meals, symbolizing reconciliation and unity.

Parashah Tzav also **emphasizes the need for cleanliness and purification during these rituals**. The priests are instructed on how to properly handle and dispose of the sacrificial remains to maintain spiritual purity within the Tabernacle (Mishkan in Hebrew). These details underscore the significance of order and cleanliness in the practice of their faith.

This portion also includes the grand ceremony, or ordination, for Aaron and his sons when they officially become priests. It highlights how they step up to their unique role as go-betweens for the community and the Divine, underscoring the importance of their commitment to carrying out their sacred duties faithfully.

In summary, **Parashah Tzav provides comprehensive instructions for the priests' duties** and the various offerings they are to present in the Tabernacle. It emphasizes the importance of strict following of the rules for religious rituals, cleanliness, and the dedication of the priesthood as main themes of Israelite worship practices.



Teen Takeaways from Parashah Tzav

- 1. **Keeping traditions alive**: Just like your family has its special traditions, Parashah Tzav shows the importance of keeping religious traditions going.
- 2. **Stepping up**: Aaron and his sons "step up" to their roles as religious leaders. You will step up on the bimah as you become b'nai mitzvah. It is symbolic and actual!
- 3. **Knowing your role**: In this portion, it's clear that everyone had a specific job in the religious community. This is a reminder that in a team or group project, each person has a role to play, and when everyone does their part, things work smoothly. As you join the community of "adult Jews," how will this be your team?
- 4. **Staying pure and true**: Parashah Tzav talks about staying pure, not just physically, but also in your heart. What does "pure" mean to you?
- Doing good deeds from the heart: Some offerings were given willingly, not because the people had
 to. It's a bit like volunteering or helping someone just because you want to, not because you're
 forced to.
- 6. **Keep the fire alive**: The eternal flame in the Tabernacle (Mishkan in Hebrew) reminds us to keep our enthusiasm and passion alive, whether it's for a hobby, a sport, or a cause. Don't let your interests fizzle out.
- 7. **Structure is helpful**: Just like having a study schedule or a plan for your day can help you be more productive, Parashah Tzav shows that structure in religious practice can be helpful, too.
- 8. **Everyone participates**: In the community, everyone had a role, not just the priests. It's a bit like teamwork: Everyone plays a part in making things work. So, whether it's a school project or a family event, everyone's contribution matters. What would happen if everybody wanted to be in charge?
- 9. **Learning from mistakes**: Some of the offerings were for forgiveness. This teaches us that it's okay to make mistakes, but it's important to learn from them and try to make amends when we mess up.

Summary

Parashah Tzav teaches us about the **importance of traditions**, **teamwork**, **being a good person**, and **staying passionate about what we do**. It's like a guide for a balanced and meaningful life, reminding us that **we all have a role to play in our communities** and that **kindness and forgiveness matter**.