

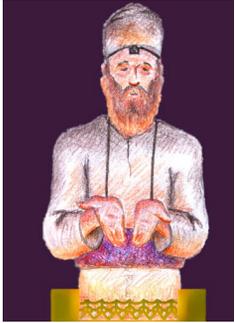


SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARASHA SHEET

PARASHAT ACHAREI MOT - KEDOSHIM



This week, we read a double Parasha of Parashat Acharei Mot and Parashat Kedoshim. The Parasha begins with Hashem reminding Aharon of what happened to his children and Hashem warning Aharon not to make the same mistake as his sons did. Aharon is told that he is the only person who may enter the Kodesh HaKadashim. However, he may only enter the Kodesh HaKadashim on Yom Kippur in order to perform the Avodah service. Moshe then begins to explain to Aharon how to perform the holy Yom Kippur service in the Mishkan. Now as you know, Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year, so the service of this holy day can not be a simple task. Additionally, since it is the holiest day of the year, only an extremely holy person is allowed to perform the service.



This special person was the Kohen Gadol. Since Aharon was the Kohen Gadol, only he was permitted to perform this task. He was required to wear 8 garments of clothing when performing the Avodah service. Four of these garments contained gold. These were the Meil (the coat which has gold bells on the bottom), the Choshen (the Breastplate which contains gold thread and gold clasps), the Tzitz (a headplate made completely of gold) and the Aifod (an apron made with gold thread). However, the Kohen Gadol did not wear these four items of clothing when he entered the Kodesh HaKadashim. When entering the Kodesh HaKadashim, he only wore his four white linen garments: the Michnasayim (pants), Ketonet (a long shirt), Avnait (a belt prepared especially for Yom Kippur) and the Mitznefet (a turban). Throughout the entire Yom Kippur, the Kohen Gadol would change his clothing five times. Each time he changed his clothing, he immersed in the Mikvah and he would also wash his hands and feet before and after changing his clothes.

The Avodah service of Yom Kippur involved the Kohen Gadol offering many sacrifices on behalf of himself and the Jewish people. He would do all this to atone for the sins of the Jewish people and to pray for the year ahead. The service included a lottery with two goats. The Kohen Gadol would stand in the Courtyard of the Mishkan with two goats. One goat was to be dedicated to Hashem and the other would be sent to the Azazel. The Kohen Gadol cannot decide which goat will be dedicated to Hashem and which will be sent to the Azazel, so he makes a lottery. A box is placed in front of him. Inside the box were two pieces of wood, one said 'For Hashem' and the other said 'For Azazel'. The Kohen Gadol then placed both his hands inside the box and took out a piece of wood in each hand. The one in his right hand was placed on the head of the goat on his right, and the one in his left hand was placed on the head of the goat on his left. The Kohen Gadol then looked to see what the piece of wood on each goat said. The goat on which it said 'For Hashem' was used as the Karban Chatat Sacrifice and its blood was to be sprinkled in the Kodesh HaKadashim, and the goat on which it said 'For Azazel' was taken into the desert by a special messenger, and was pushed off the cliffs. The reason why the goat was thrown off the cliffs, was to atone for all the sins of the Jewish people.

Throughout the whole of Yom Kippur, the Kohen Gadol entered the Kodesh HaKadashim four times. The first time, he offered the Ketoret (incense) sacrifice. This sacrifice is the highlight of the whole Yom Kippur service. Next the Kohen Gadol entered the Kodesh HaKadashim to sprinkle the blood from the Karban Chatat. The blood was sprinkled eight times before the holy Ark. The third time the Kohen Gadol entered was to sprinkle the blood of the 'For Hashem' goat, eight times before the holy Ark. And the final time that he entered he retrieved the spoon and pan that he left inside after performing the Ketoret Sacrifice. During the Avodah service of the Yom Kippur service, the Kohen Gadol was permitted to say Hashem's real name, and when he said the Name all the Jewish people immediately bowed down and praised Hashem. (The Kohen Gadol is the only person who may say Hashem's real Name, and even he is only permitted to say it during the Avodah service of Yom Kippur). At the conclusion of the Yom Kippur service, when the Kohen Gadol completed his service, the entire Jewish nation would let out a huge sigh of relief. Hashem has forgiven everyone, and everyone thanks the Kohen Gadol for praying on their behalf. To celebrate the Kohen Gadol would invite everyone to his home, to conclude the fast with a feast. Nowadays, since we don't have the Mishkan or Beit Hamikdash, we read all about the Kohen Gadol's Yom Kippur service, in our Musaf prayers on Yom Kippur.



Next, the Parasha discusses various laws of the Torah. It introduces the prohibition of eating the blood of an animal. Torah law commands us to prepare Kosher meat in such a way that all the blood is drained out of the meat so that we don't eat the blood. It is because of the Mitzvah that we check that our meat does not have blood on it. We also check our eggs to make sure that they do not have any blood spots inside. If a blood spot appears on an egg, the egg is not kosher and we are required to throw it away. When the egg is raw, the blood spot can be found on the yolk,

and when it's boiled, the blood spot can be found on the inside layer of the white part of the egg.

Hashem also tells us that we need to be a holy nation. The way to be a holy nation is to do lots of Hashem's holy Mitzvot. This means that we should always try to do everything in a holy way. For example, when eating, first make a Bracha on the food or when playing, make sure to invite all your friends to play with you so that no one feels left out. This also means that we should be a moral and modest nation: we should not lie, cheat, swear falsely or steal. We need to treat everyone with kindness: we shouldn't be mean to a deaf person or a convert, we should help a person in danger and we should not talk gossip, take revenge or bear a grudge. Other Mitzvot which are discussed include: fearing your parents, leaving produce out in the field for the poor and not to be involved in black magic and not to get tattoos. Hashem tells us that if we fulfill these laws He will protect us and reward us and we will have a share in the World to Come, However, the Torah also lists punishments for transgressing some of these Mitzvot. We need to make sure to separate the good from the bad, to do what is right and stay away from what is not permitted by the Torah.



A lesson that we can learn from this week's Parasha is the Mitzvah of Ahavat Yisrael, to love your fellow Jew. Hashem created each and every single person and therefore we are all very precious to Hashem. Sometimes its easy to love someone because they might be funny and smart and sometimes it may be difficult to love someone, especially if they are annoying. However, we must always remember that we are all Hashem's creations, we are all precious to Hashem and therefore we must love one another and be kind to each other. There is a story in the Talmud in which a non-jew came to a Rabbi named Hillel and asked him to teach him the whole Torah while standing on one foot. Hillel looked at the man and said, 'whatever you don't want done to you, don't do to others!' That's the whole Torah, and the rest is just commentary'. These powerful words of Rabbi Hillel teach us that the most important part of being a Jew is to be careful not to hurt others. We need to treat everyone with kindness, just as you would want to be treated yourself. It is natural for a person to think about himself. This is because we all have our own needs and wishes. But the Mitzvah of Ahavat Yisrael teaches us that we need

to think about other people too. We need to put other people first. Instead of spending time and money in just making ourselves happy, we need to take the time to make other people happy. When we give to others and show them that we care about them, they realise that we have true feelings for them and that is what makes a true friendship.

Mission: Say yes when someone asks you for a favour, even if it means you have to give something up.

PARASHA QUESTIONS:

1. What are the names of this week's Parshiot?
This week's Parshiot are Parashat Acharei Mot and Parashat Kedoshim.
2. Who is the only person allowed to enter the Kodesh HaKadashim?
Aharon, the Kohen Gadol, is the only person who was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies.
3. What happened to the Azazel goat and why?
The Azazel goat was taken into the desert by a special messenger, and was then thrown off a cliff in order to atone for all of the sins of the Jewish people.
4. Who is the only person that is allowed to say Hashem's Holy Name?
Only the Kohen Gadol is allowed to announce Hashem's Holy Name and even he may only say it on Yom Kippur when performing the Avodah service..
5. Nowadays how do we perform the Yom Kippur Service?
We are unable to perform the Yom Kippur Service without a Mishkan or Beit Hamikdash. Instead, we read all about the Kohen Gadol's Yom Kippur service in our Yom Kippur Musaf Prayers.
6. If we perform Hashem's Mitzvot, how will we be rewarded?
If we perform Hashem's Mitzvot we will be rewarded with a share in the World to Come!
7. What did Rabbi Hillel tell the non-jew?
Rabbi Hillel told the non-jew that the whole Torah is 'whatever you don't want done to you, don't do to others! That's the whole Torah and the rest is commentary!' these words teach us to always care for others and to always be kind to others.

It was great seeing you in Shule!

We hope you enjoy reading this Parasha Sheet and quizzing your family!

Shabbat Shalom from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew

