

D'var Torah by Rabbi M. Jaroslawicz for Parshas Tzav 5775 (2015)

In this week's Parsha, Tzav, the Torah gives us guidelines to many of the different types of "Korbonos," animal sacrifices, which had to be brought for various reasons. One of the laws in particular stands out as being quite unusual, the "Korbon Todah."

This Korbon was brought after having survived some sort of life-threatening crisis. The Todah was offered as an expression of gratitude to Hashem for having been saved.

Here is the hard part to grasp. Every Korbon had a specific amount of bread loaves, spices, etc., that needed to accompany the animal to slaughter. Also, each Korbon had a time limitation in which ALL of the Korbon and its accoutrements had to be consumed.

The Korbon Todah had forty (40) loaves of bread that had to be brought with the animal itself, thirty -six of which had to be eaten. But wait! That is not all. There was also a time limitation of only one night and one day in which one must be done eating. To put it simply, if you brought a Korbon Todah, you had less than twenty-four (24) hours to eat the entire animal as well as all of the breads that went along with it. It would be a transgression to leave any part over until the next day. Why would the Torah impose such a difficult undertaking, to eat so much in such a short amount of time? It seems unfair and, almost, practically impossible to do so.

The answer can possibly be understood by examining a Gemara in Berachos, 54b. There, the Gemara teaches us that four types of individuals were obligated to bring a Korban Todah: One who was healed from a life-threatening illness, one who was released from a Gentile prison, one who had crossed a dangerous sea, and one who had crossed a hazardous desert.

All four of these individuals bring a Korban Todah as an expression of "Thanks" that Hashem saved their lives.

The Netziv writes that, along with actually bringing the sacrifice, those individuals must also "publicize" the miracle that occurred to them.

This, says the Chizkuni, is the basis of what we know today as "giving a Kiddush."

In order to be able to finish thirty-six loaves of bread and ALL of the meat in only one night and one day, one had no choice but to invite other people to join and participate in the Simcha. The Ba'al Simcha spread the word and told everyone about how wonderful Hashem is and what Hashem had done for him.

This Shabbos, so appropriately timed, we find ourselves re-enacting the same theme discussed in this week's Torah reading.

Won't you come out and join us as we, too -- all of the DOS membership -- participate in making Kiddush and sharing the opportunity to discuss with everyone just how great Hashem has been to US by honoring us with a brand new Sefer Torah gifted to DOS by Joe and Judy Kaufer.

It is a rare and special occasion, and we need YOUR help to insure that the food will not survive the twenty-four-hour deadline.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Shabbos morning.

Have a great Shabbos and a "Zeesin" Pesach.