

Shemini 2023

Shemini/"Eighth", Leviticus 9:1-11:47, commences with the closing of the ordination of Aaron and his sons, having been consecrated for 7 days. As it is now the 8th day, it is time for the Tabernacle and this priesthood to assume their responsibilities! The significance of this happening on the 8th day cannot be overlooked! 8 is the number of new beginnings, as well as the day of circumcision marking a covenant that is being entered into. Circumcision specifically infers something being removed or cut off. This is further emphasized by the letter ך the 8th letter being a picture of a wall or a boundary line, inferring that it is creating a protected sanctuary that simultaneously is separating and walling off those on the outside. Circumcision is necessary for the creation of a sanctuary!

An interesting connection seeing as the whole purpose of the building of the Tabernacle was for Yahweh to dwell among His people! In fact the word Mishkan מִשְׁכָּן - Tabernacle comes from the root inferring to dwell together in a union of intimacy, likened unto that of a marriage! Yet it is also referred to as a miqdash מִקְדָּשׁ a sacred set apart place, emphasizing it's set apartness! Shemini reveals this duality – a sanctuary has been created, a place of intimacy and union; yet for the very creation of this sanctuary there must also be a cutting away/circumcision. Who/what is circumcised or separated? Here we find any outside of the role of priest are "circumcised"/cut off from the intimacy found within the dwelling of the sanctuary!

Remember, Israel was called and delivered for this very purpose – to be a nation of priests! **Exodus 19:6** – "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." This is still the desire and the role waiting for those who are willing – **1 Peter 2:9** – "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

Priest: Strong's #3548 kohen כֹּהֵן priest, principal officer or chief ruler; the term kohen כֹּהֵן is formed by inserting the ה (to reveal, something released or breathed, creative power) into the כ root which means to establish a standard. To be a kingdom of priests was to be a people who would have breathed into them the character and nature of Yahweh, in order to establish His standard upon the earth!

*A set apart sanctuary designed to house the breath of the Creator and reveal His Name!

It's no accident that this is the 26th parshah of the year, 26 being the value of the name Yahweh יהוה the embodiment of His character and nature which is about to be

released/breathed into those who have made themselves ready to receive it – those in the office of the kohen.

In fact this directly correlates with shemini!

Eighth: Strong's #8066 shemini שְׁמִינִי eighth; from the root shemoneh (#8083) שְׁמוֹנָה eight; the same letters rearranged form neshamah (#5397) נְשָׁמָה breath, spirit; **Genesis 2:7** – “And Yahweh Elohim formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Neshamah is associated with the mind and intellect of Yahweh, which is then entrusted to Adam!

***Job 23:8** – “But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration/neshamah of El Shaddai giveth them understanding.”

The term Kohen reveals that this office is the one who receives this breath/neshamah! Adam was created to fill this role, and as such once breathed into became the kohen/priest upon the earth – this is further established by what Adam is commanded to do – to dress and to keep the Garden (**Gen. 2:15**)! Dress – ‘abad עָבַד & Keep – shamar שָׁמַר. These 2 Hebrew action verbs are not seen connected again until the instructions regarding the duties of the Priest in the Tabernacle!

We find this same pattern again when Yahshua breathes on His disciples in **John 20:22** – “And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Ruach HaQodesh:” Upon closer inspection, it is significant to note that Thomas is missing here, and **vs. 26** reveals that Yahshua again appears 8 days later – shemini! Could it be that they’re being consecrated into the priesthood of Messiah?

It’s also interesting to note that shemoneh (the root of shemini), is also composed of the same letters that form the name Manasseh: #4519 Menashsheh מְנַשֶּׁה causing to forget; Manasseh was the firstborn son of Joseph! Quite a significant connection seeing as the firstborn of each house was to carry on the priestly mantle; this is the birthright. Joseph himself wore this mantle and well understood the cost the entire house of Israel paid and would pay for rejecting it. Because to reject it meant to reject the mind of the Creator – the neshamah! Without the neshamah, they are a body with no life! It indicated that though they had a physical form, there was no life in them (Ezek. 37 – a valley of bones).

From such a position, I believe the naming of Joseph’s sons were intentional and a prophetic message. Let’s look closer at Manasseh who is encoded here in Shemini! **Genesis 41:51** – “And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.”

Forget: Strong's #5382 nasah נָסַח to forget, to desert, neglect, or to deprive; nasah נָסַח is neshamah נְשָׁמָה without the נ – waters or a womb, the mem is written by

joining the כ (20) and the ו (6) = 26, the value of Yahweh יהוה! When the firstborn forgets or is removed from the work of his Father's house, then the Name is not revealed!

A cognate of #5377 nasa' נָסָא to beguile or deceive; first seen in **Gen. 3:13** – “...And the woman said, The serpent beguiled/nasa' me, and I did eat.”

*What is Joseph revealing here? In the naming of Manasseh he reveals the consequences of the role of the firstborn either rejecting or in his case being deprived of his role (kohen – priest)! The house is now likened unto Adam and the woman in a fallen condition having been deceived by the serpent upon also compromising this mantle! And the neshamah is now separated from the very source it was breathed from!

Gematria = 355, the same as Pharaoh פַּרְעֹה - When this role is rejected, Joseph and therefore the rest of the house end up in Pharaoh's domain! And in this fallen condition, cut off from the mind of the Creator (the neshamah), which brings life, having compromised their position as kohen – priests, they become likened unto a dead man, one who has death working in them (just like Adam), and as such they are subjugated by the hand of Pharaoh!

An interesting parallel is seen in the midst of the famine that Joseph maneuvers! **Gen. 47:22** – “Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.”

*Pharaoh never takes the land of the priests, though referring to his own priestly system in place, it sets an interesting precedent that if Israel would maintain their status as a nation of priests they too would be able to maintain their standing in the face of Pharaoh...who only has authority over the dead. This is still true today regarding pharaoh's system!

Hence the message Moses is sent with to Pharaoh, **Exodus 4:22** – “And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith Yahweh, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:” in other words, Israel is my heir, my chosen priest, and the one created to have revealed to them and entrusted with my neshamah!

This culminates with the final blow to Egypt being that of the cutting off of their firstborn - literally the cutting off of the inheritance and priesthood of Egypt who in turn were entrusted with the mind/character/neshamah of Pharaoh while simultaneously revealing the restoration, renewal, and resurrection of Yahweh's kingdom of priests!

*As a side note, Israel misses the pattern, rejects this role, and at a future Passover this is fulfilled through the resurrection of our Messiah Yahshua!

This final plague is uniquely referred to as a nega' (#5061) נֶגַע (**Ex. 11:1**) stroke, plague, disease, mark or plague spot; the majority of the time it describes a blemish inflicted by leprosy! Isn't it interesting that the condition of leprosy is associated with one who is unclean – dead? Could this be revealing that those who choose to

carry and reveal the neshamah (character and mind) of Pharaoh are likened unto one who has no life in them? The final plague merely exposes the leprous condition of the people! There is no life in them outside of the I AM – Yahweh!

It is from the root naga' (#5060) נָגַע touch, reach, or strike; it's altar language! **Exodus 29:37** – "...and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheh/naga' the altar shall be holy." Whatsoever touches/naga' the altar is holy – qadosh – set apart! It gains access beyond the boundary line that's been established, it's the doorway into the sanctuary. This is why Israel is circumcised directly before the release of this nega' – they must cut away the aspect of the carnal man through which the character of Pharaoh has been manifested – his doorway, setting themselves apart now as a sanctuary prepared and ready to be breathed into and filled with the Neshamah of Yahweh in order to live again!

All of this is hinted at when Moses is at the burning bush – the first reference of leprosy! **Exodus 4:6** – "And Yahweh said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow." This was to be one of the signs proving Yahweh had sent Moses to deliver Israel. Yet it is one that never seems to be used (unlike the other 2 of the staff turning into a serpent and the water turning to blood). What is this sign?

Leprous: Strong's #6879 tsara' צָרַע to be diseased of skin, to be leprous; notice it is the same root stem as Egypt Mitsrayim מִצְרַיִם Egypt is literally the fountain/source (מ) of leprosy! If anyone touches leprosy/dead things, they themselves are contaminated. As Israel has been in Egypt this sign seems to be just as significant to their condition as to Egypt's! It's no accident though that the cleansing of the leper ritual is almost identical to the consecration of a priest.

Where the priest has the blood applied to the tip of his right ear, right thumb, and right big toe, the lepers have the blood and the oil applied to this same area. Both undergo a waiting season of 7 days, and are declared "clean" or "consecrated" on the eighth day/shemini! Do you see the pattern that's being revealed? From Adam forward, we have been tainted by leprosy (death), yet the pattern of the ritual cleansing pointed towards being consecrated into priesthood! For Israel to be truly cleansed from leprosy – unclean dead things, they were to be consecrated and transformed into a kingdom of priests!

This is the purpose of the Melchizedek Priesthood – to offer a covering/mantle that we are able to put on and walk in so that we may have access to the neshamah – the mind of Yahweh! This is what Adam walked in, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Mosheh is sent to present this to Israel as a nation. However, due to a severe compromise with the Molten Calf (Just like Adam in the Garden), this role is rejected and the nation as a whole waits until Messiah comes to reveal the Neshamah and breath upon them again!

***Phillippians 2:5** – “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Messiah Yahshua:” **1 Corinthians 2:16** – “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Messiah.”

In fact in order to do so, the Messiah took on the leprosy of Israel so that they could walk as a kingdom of Priests, fulfilling the prophecy of the Leper Scholar (spoken of in the Talmud and hidden among the prophecies of the Scriptures), further confirming his role as the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek as the role of priest is intertwined with being cleansed from leprosy/death! He walks out and fulfills the very pattern Israel is shown in Egypt, and that was revealed to Adam.

In fact, when Israel compromises this pattern, **Ex. 32:25** – “And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)” not only does it mirror Adam’s encounter with the serpent, but the term for naked here is quite interesting! Naked: Strong’s #6544 para’ פָּרַע to let go, or loose; but it’s the root stem of Pharaoh! The Hebrew reveals the people have once again willingly placed themselves under Pharaoh by rejecting the priesthood Yahweh was offering! They have chosen to remain leprous!

This is why Shemini is so significant! Israel rejected the priesthood, though they have left physical Egypt they are still unclean and now “circumcised”/cut off from the intimacy that will be found within the sanctuary, yet they see the pattern through Aaron and his sons, a taste of what it could have been! Yet the Levitical priesthood is incapable of revealing the neshamah (mind and character of Yahweh), which is the responsibility and role of the Melchizedek – the Righteous King and Priest! Instead they are only able to be caretakers of the body (the tabernacle) waiting for the breath/mind to give life to it.

There is always a veil between the mind/neshamah/holy of holies and the Levitical priesthood.

Veil: Strong’s #6532 paroket פָּרֹקֶת curtain, veil; from #6531 perek פָּרַק harshness, cruel, severity, oppression, tyranny; from an unused root meaning to break apart, to fracture

*The term perek is 1st seen in **Exodus 1:3** – “And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour/perek.”

A people cut off from the mind/face of Yaweh are an enslaved people! The veil was a constant reminder that Israel was still functioning with a slave mind set, therefore there was a boundary line in place because they were still as of yet incapable of handling and accessing the mind of the Creator until they accepted the cleansing ritual He was offering them – to walk as a nation of priests!

Notice that Mosheh speaks without a veil to Yahweh, yet with the people he must veil his face as in their condition they are unable to function in the presence of what he is revealing!

Exodus 34:34 – “But when Moses went in before Yahweh to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded.”

***Ex. 34:30** specifically states that even Aaron, the High Priest, is afraid to come nigh to Mosheh without the vail!

With this understanding of the sign Mosheh is given, the leprous hand, its quite intriguing to see that this is part of the basis of the well known and often seen Freemasonic hand symbol, where the hand is inserted into their garment, seen from historical paintings of people in power, to current political world leaders and celebrities! The powers that be flaunt this symbol to reveal their identity and their power over the people, yet simultaneously they reveal their own dead leprous condition!

It is referred to as the sign of the Master of the Second Veil. With the Masonic obsession with the Temple and it's rituals, it is significant to note that the second veil in Herod's temple separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. The Holy of Holies should have been the abode of the neshamah – the Mind of Yahweh! Yet there is no manifestation of His Presence in this Temple nor is there a throne/Ark of the Covenant...the Shekina goes into exile with the lost tribes! For the Masonic occult world they believe they have accessed “eternal life”, and tapped into a power source that furthers their kingdom and control. They flaunt the veil because it is the veil that keeps the people fooled and enslaved. Yet all the while the sign of Mosheh loudly declares they are leprous and tainted by death!

The neshamah/the Breath and life has been restored to His people who have become His living tabernacle! **1 Peter 2:9** – “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:”

Shemini – a new beginning and a restoration of the inheritance and birthright that belongs to His people! This is what this season is about, at Passover we are redeemed and brought out of Egypt – leprosy, but now we must learn to walk, think, and act like a nation of kings and priests!