

March 13-19, 2022  
10-16 Adar II, 5782

Torah Reading:  
Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

Haftarah:  
Jeremiah 7:21-28;  
Jeremiah 9:22-23

## PARSHAT TZAV

### Calendars

We have Jewish Calendars. If you would like one, please send us a letter and we will send you one, or ask the Rabbi/Chaplain to contact us.

### Family Programs

Do you have family on the outside struggling? Please contact or have them contact our office to learn more about our family programs. You and they are not alone, we are here to help.

### Grape Juice & Matzah

We offer free Grape Juice and Matzah for you to be able to make the blessings every Shabbos. Please have your chaplain / Rabbi contact us to enroll (available to all prisons).

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No One Alone,  
No One Forgotten.

## The Joyless Relationship

Oblivious to her surroundings (a crowded boarding area in the Philly airport), the woman seated across from me loudly informed her husband in clear and unmistakable terms exactly what she expected from him. “Your job is to make me happy.” “Your only job,” she continued, adding a little oomph for emphasis, “is to make me happy. It is not my job to make you happy.”

Judging by the blank look on the husband’s non-reactive face and his utter lack of acknowledgement that she was even speaking to him, I gathered this was not a newsflash. By the looks of their worn-out elderly faces, I imagined that he had heard this directive hundreds of times, probably for decades.

### *The Guilt-Ridden Relationship*

With the hundreds of commandments given to us in the Torah that seemingly regulate our every move in order to serve G-d, one could conclude that G-d’s essential message to the Jewish people could sound like the wife in the airport. “Listen up, people. Your job is to make Me happy. Your only job is to make Me happy. It is not My job to make you happy.” One could kinda get that feeling, right? It’s not that much of a stretch. But it would be wrong.

Previously in the storyline, we sinned with the Golden Calf (not good). But then we were forgiven, and we faithfully

built the Tabernacle (good), which became the vehicle for the Divine Presence of G-d to connect with the Jewish people (really good). But now, in this week’s Torah portion, Tzav, G-d is instructing Moses about the sacrificial offerings that the Jewish people will have to bring to atone for their sins—their future sins. The ones they haven’t committed ... yet.

### *What’s With the Eternal Rub?*

Wait a minute. This seems rather disaffirming, doesn’t it? Imagine getting married and before you even check into your hotel on your honeymoon, you have to sit down for a lecture on conflict resolution, fair fighting and how to appease your spouse?

Things were just getting back on track with G-d. Couldn’t we, as the Jewish people, just relax and enjoy our honeymoon a little while before being told about how we should atone for our sins—our future sins, that is? Does G-d really have to rub in the fact that making mistakes is inevitable? Did G-d really have to ruin the moment of reunification with this “buzzkill?”

### *Some Simple Truths*

You and every other person on the planet make mistakes, and you will continue to make mistakes until you are either dead or you lack capacity. Making mistakes is simply wired into the very

mechanism of creation.

So here’s another simple truth. You “make” mistakes; however, you yourself are not the mistake. And that’s what Tzav is all about—where G-d is laying out the process of growth and teaching us about the “right of repair.” Marriage expert John Gottman often talks about how a key factor in protecting marriages against divorce is for couples to learn the art of the repair attempt because it stops negativity from escalating, and it corrects a couple from heading off-course.

### *The Joyful Relationship*

So, too, the laws of the sacrifices gave us a way to process mistakes, and to correct and rectify ourselves so that we could repair and restore our connection with G-d. We needed to know that from the onset or else we could get lost in self-condemnation, blame and shame. Otherwise, we could hyper-focus on our mistakes and think we are beyond repair, which leads to disconnection. Or we could focus our anger outwards and get caught in a downward negativity spiral.

And that kind of truth, that amazing gift, can’t wait to be told. G-d was telling us something about fundamental human nature

and relationships. We needed to understand that we are not perfect, and that we will certainly make mistakes, but the relationship will endure nevertheless. We need to be able to take risks, to be vulnerable and to be authentic; otherwise, we can become paralyzed by the constraints of perfectionism, which is a life-crippling syndrome.

### *The Eternal Relationship*

In this week's Torah portion, G-d also instructs us to keep lit an eternal flame. Providing the means to process and metabolize and move through our errors is the vehicle for growth, and it frees us to maintain our connection with that which is eternal—our connection to G-d and to our own inner flame.

What G-d is really telling us, is that our job, our only job, is to connect with G-d, and in so doing, we will be connected with our truest, deepest selves. Appreciating the critical difference between making a mistake and being a mistake, and utilizing the “right of repair” will help get you back on track with keeping lit the eternal flame of your soul and living your life's true mission.

### *Internalize & Actualize:*

If you weren't scared of failure and making mistakes, what risks would you take right now in your life?

What do you fear will happen if you make mistakes, especially in your relationships? What are you most scared you will lose? When thinking more about it, is this based in any kind of reality? If so, is the relationship really solid to begin with?

List a few mistakes that you have made that you felt there was no way of repairing. Now rethink them and recognize that making mistakes is human and unavoidable. Write yourself a message acknowledging that while you made a mistake, you are not a mistake and forgive yourself. How does that make you feel when you tell yourself that you are not your mistake? By Hanna Perlberger

### **Purim Observances**

*Purim observances include:*

- a) Reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther), which recounts the story of the Purim miracle.
- b) Giving to the poor (gifts of money should be given to at least two poor people).
- c) Sending gifts of food to friends (a minimum of two ready-to-eat foods to at least one friend).
- d) The Purim feast.
- e) Reciting the Al Hanissim prayer.

**Sunday, March 13, 2022 --- 10 Adar II, 5782**

### **Maharal Meets Emperor (1592)**

Rabbi Judah ben Bezalel Lowe, known as the Maharal of Prague was famous among Jews and non-Jews alike. He was a mystic who was revered for his holiness and Torah scholarship, as well as his proficiency in mathematics, astronomy, and other sciences. Eventually, word of his greatness reached the ears of Emperor Rudolph II.

The Emperor invited the Maharal to his castle on February 23, 1592. There they conversed for one and a half hours, and developed a mutual respect for each other.

Rabbi Judah Lowe made use of his excellent connections with the Emperor, often intervening on behalf of his community when it was threatened by anti-Semitic attacks or oppression.

**Monday, March 14, 2022 --- 11 Adar II, 5782**

### **First Print of Rashi (1475)**

Rashi, the most basic commentary on the Torah, was printed for the first time, in Reggio di Calabria, Italy. In this print, the commentary on the Five Books of Moses, authored in the 11th century by Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, was not on the same page as the text of the Scriptures, as it is normally printed today.

This was the first time that the rounded Hebrew font was used, the font which has since become known as "Rashi Letters."

**Thursday, March 17, 2022 --- 14 Adar II, 5782**

### **Moses' Brit (1393 BCE)**

Moses was born on the 7th of Adar of the year 2368 from creation (1393 BCE); accordingly, Adar 14 was the 8th day of his life and the day on which he was circumcised in accordance with the Divine command to Abraham.

### **Purim Victory Celebrated (356 BCE)**

The festival of Purim celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman's plot "to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day."

The events of Purim extended over a period of several years, culminating in the victory celebrations of Adar 14-15 of 356 BCE. Below is a timeline of the major events. For the detailed story, see the Book of Esther and The Story of Purim.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Achashveirosh ascends the throne of Persia	369 BCE
Achashveirosh's 180-day feast; Queen Vashti executed	366 BCE
Esther becomes queen	Tevet, 362 BCE
Haman casts lots to choose date for Jews' annihilation	Nissan, 357 BCE
Royal decree ordering killing of all Jews	Nissan 13, 357 BCE
Mordechai calls on Jews to repent; 3-day fast ordered by Esther	Nissan 14-16, 357 BCE
Esther goes to Achashveirosh; hosts 1st wine party with Achashveirosh and Haman	Nissan 16, 357 BCE
Esther's 2nd wine party; Haman's downfall and hanging	Nissan 17, 357 BCE
Second decree issued by Achashveirosh, empowering the Jews to defend themselves	Sivan 23, 357 BCE
Battles fought throughout the empire against those seeking to kill the Jews; Haman's ten sons killed	Adar 13, 356 BCE
Purim celebrations everywhere, except Shushan where 2nd day of battles are fought	<b>Adar 14, 356 BCE</b>
Purim celebration in Shushan	Adar 15, 356 BCE
Megillah written by Esther and Mordechai; Festival of Purim instituted for all generations	355 B

### **Conclusion of First Gulf War (1991)**

On August 2, 1990, the Iraqi army under Saddam Hussein occupied Kuwait. After five weeks of heavy fighting, coalition forces succeeded in liberating Kuwait, and a ceasefire was declared on February 28, 1991, corresponding to the holiday of Purim.

Despite threats from Saddam to bombard Israel with chemical warheads, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, R. Menachem Mendel Schneerson, stated unequivocally that “the Land of Israel is the safest place in the world,” and predicted that the war would be over by Purim.

**Friday, March 18, 2022 --- 15 Adar II, 5782**

### **Purim Victory Celebrated in Shushan (356 BCE)**

The battles fought between the Jews and their enemies, which took place on Adar 13 throughout the Persian empire, continued for two days -- Adar 13 and 14 -- in the capital city of Shushan, where there were a greater number of Jew haters. Thus the victory celebrations in Shushan were held on the 15th of Adar, and the observance of the festival of Purim was instituted for that day in Shushan and all walled cities.

### **Ezekiel Foretells the Downfall of Israel's Enemies (1991)**

On this date, in the year following the Holy Temple's destruction, G-d tells Ezekiel to take up a lamentation for Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and for the Jewish nation's other enemies, foretelling their ultimate downfall.