

General Overview: This week's Torah reading, *Vayikra*, begins the third book of the Torah, Leviticus. Last week we completed the reading of the book of Exodus, which concluded with a description of the construction of the Tabernacle. This week's portion will provide a description of the various sacrifices – animal, fowl, and meal-offerings – offered by the priests in this newly constructed Sanctuary.

[First Aliyah](#): G-d calls out to Moses from the Tabernacle and teaches him the laws of the elective burnt offering, the *Olah* sacrifice. This Aliyah discusses the laws of the cattle, sheep, or goat *Olah*.

[Second Aliyah](#): G-d then teaches Moses the laws of the fowl *Olah*. This aliyah then continues with a description of three types of voluntary meal offerings: unbaked flour, baked loaves, and the shallow-fried meal offering. All voluntary meal offerings also contained olive oil and frankincense.

[Third Aliyah](#): The Torah describes the last type of voluntary meal offerings -- the deep-fried meal offering -- and the mandatory barley offering, the *Omer* offering, brought on the second day of Passover. G-d instructs the Jews to add salt to every animal sacrifice or meal offering, a symbol of our everlasting "salt covenant" with G-d. We are also commanded not to include any leavened items or anything which contains honey in any Temple offering (there are two exclusions to the leaven prohibition).

[Fourth Aliyah](#): The "Peace Offering," the *Shelamim* sacrifice, is described in this Aliyah. The *Shelamim* -- which could be brought from cattle, sheep, or goats -- was shared by the altar, which consumed some of the animal's fats, the *Kohanim*, and the donors of the sacrifice who were given the bulk of the meat. The aliyah ends with the prohibitions against consuming blood and the specific fats which were offered on the altar. These prohibitions apply to all animals, even those not offered in the Temple.

[Fifth Aliyah](#): We now begin learning about the "Sin Offering," the *Chatat* sacrifice, brought by an individual who is guilty of inadvertently transgressing a sin. This

section discusses the unique *Chatat* sacrifices brought by a High Priest who sins, by the *Sanhedrin* (Jewish Supreme Court) who issue an erroneous ruling which causes the populace to sin, and a monarch who sins.

[Sixth Aliyah](#): The Torah discusses the fourth and final type of *Chatat*, that of a common person who sins. Also discussed is the *Korban Oleh Viyored*, a "vacillating" Sin Offering, brought by an individual guilty of certain specific sins. The *Korban Oleh Viyored* depended on the financial position of the transgressor -- a wealthy person brought a sheep or goat, a person of lesser means brought two birds, and a pauper brought a meal offering.

[Seventh Aliyah](#): This section concludes the laws of the *Korban Oleh Viyored*. We then move on to the last sacrifice discussed in this week's Torah reading, the "Guilt Offering," the *Asham* Sacrifice. Three types of *Asham* Sacrifices are discussed: a) an *Asham* brought by one who inadvertently misappropriates Temple property. b) An *Asham* brought by one who falsely swears regarding money owed to another. (Aside for bringing a sacrifice, these two individuals must repay the principal amount, and pay a punitive fine equal to one fourth of the principle.) c) An *Asham* brought by a person who is uncertain whether he violated a Torah prohibition.