**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat, what verse or verses touched your heart and fired your imagination?

Three things grabbed my imagination: 1. Meam Loez’s treatment of the tribes showing that the symbolism for the offering was different for each tribe (This did not strike me for the first six tribes). 2. I was struck by the appearance of Amalek the week before Parashat Zachor where we remember what Amalek did. 3. The profound implications of Mashiach’s death with regards to the Oral Torah.

1. All of the words in Psalm 96 uplift my soul.

2. The allusions brought out in the Yalkhut Me’Am Loez gave an overall history of the Children of Israel. It was fascinating.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 7:84?

**on the day it was anointed** - On the day it was anointed, he brought the offering. So what is the meaning of “after it was anointed” (verse 88)?

**twelve silver bowls** – Why is the total recorder here?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 7:85?

**[The weight of] each silver bowl was one hundred and thirty [shekels] -** What does this teach us?

**all the silver of the vessels** – What does this pasuk teach us?

1. What question was asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 7:86?

**Twelve gold spoons -** Why is this said?

1. What question was asked of Rashi regarding Numbers 7:89?

**When Moses would enter** – What do we learn from this pasuk?

**from between the two cherubim** – Where, precisely, did the voice originate?

**speaking to him** – Whatis the meaning of the Hebrew word: מִדַּבֵּר?

**and He spoke to Him** – Who is excluded by this phrase?

**He would hear the voice** – How loud was this voice?

1. Why did Ephraim’s prince bring his offering on the Sabbath?

Because his father, Joseph, had been particular about observing the Sabbath even before the command was given.

1. Why did Manasseh’s prince bring his offering on the eighth day?

When the saintly Joseph spurned the solicitations of Potiphar's wife, God said to him, "You have fulfilled the commandment of 'Do not commit adultery,' and you did not steal another man's wife. A day will come, therefore, when I will repay you in kind. When the tribal leaders will come with their offerings, your two sons will present theirs one after the other, on the seventh and eighth days. No other tribe will intervene between them, just as there was no pause (hesitation) in your fulfillment of, 'Do not commit adultery' and 'Do not steal.

1. Why did the offering of the Prince of Benjamin follows that of the prince of Ephraim and Manasseh?

The offering of the tribe of Benjamin followed that brought by the descendants of Joseph, just as the Divine Presence was later to be concentrated, first, in the Tabernacle of Shiloh, located in the land portion of Joseph, and then in the Temple, whose site in Jerusalem was in the portion of Benjamin.

1. What is the significance of the silver sacrificial basin that the prince of Benjamin offered?

This recalls Joseph’s goblet, the basin being a container used for drinking wine, as it is written: ... That drank wine in bowls (Amos 6:6).

1. Since the 12 offerings of each prince of the 12 tribes is identical, why does the Torah goes to such lengths to describe each offering in great detail and repetitiously?

Because of the deep-set significance of every offering, the Torah provided an individual description of what each tribal representative had brought. Also to avoid jealousy between the tribes.

1. Why do Sephardim during the first twelve days of Nisan read each day the offerings brought by the Princes of Israel?

It is of great benefit, if during the first twelve days of Nisan, in succession, we read the chapters that correspond to the respective tribal leaders. For every man of any given tribe then draws upon himself something of the divine light of that tribe and this disposes of whatever evil forces may have been directed against him.

To tell us that the Mashiach is not complete until all twelve tribes turn back. There are still ten and a half tribes that have to come back to Israel.

1. Why did the Torah find it necessary to sum up all the different items brought by the prince of each of the twelve tribes?

The answer is that [by this deliberate summing up), the Torah wished to stress that all the individual offerings were equally precious to God, notwithstanding that one had been brought first and another, last. Indeed, they all brought their offerings to Moses at the same time, and only then did God instruct them to be assigned to different days. All the offerings were as if presented simultaneously, and they were thus equally welcome.

1. How is the text of Numbers 7:89 related to the statement of Hakham Shaul in Romans 3:1-2.

They both speak of the fact that the oracles of God were given to the Jews, through Moshe.

1. On reading the Torah Seder for this week what touched the heart and fired the imagination of the Psalmist‎ in Psalm 96?

The Psalmist picked up on the day by day offerings of the Princes and used the “day to day” phrasing to teach us that this was how we were to sing to HaShem, bless his Name, and announce His salvation. He also took note of the tribal offerings to teach us that we should enter HaShem’s courtyards with an offering. Finally, as the Princes brought their offerings to dedicate the inauguration of the Mishkan, so als the Psalmist sees the righteous coming to this sanctuary to praise HaShem.

1. On reading the Torah Seder for this week what touched the heart and fired the imagination of the Prophet in the Book of Judges?

The Prophet took note that Ephraim was the first to bring his gift, in this week’s Torah portion, and used that as a springboard to connect Ephraim with Joshua and the first battle against Amalek which will form the central theme of next week’s Torah portion. He went on to praise the tribes for their contributions to history as the Torah praises them for their gifts to the Mishkan.

1. What in particular is the Prophet in the Book of Judges pointing us to?

To the destruction of the forces of Amalek and to the Torah portion for next week.

1. How is the reading of Mordechai (Mark) 10:32-34 related to the readings for this Shabbat?

Torah Seder

There are a number of connections to the Torah Seder this week both verbally and thematically. The number “twelve” is the total of Princes that gave offering at the dedication of the Mishkan. B’Midbar 7:78. Yeshua draws his “twelve” to himself for council and comfort in Mordechai 10:32

Tehillim

The Psalmist says in verse 8 that we are come to the courts with offerings. Yeshua was making aliyah to offer offerings in the courts. Mordechai 10:32 The Psalmist continues by saying that the L-rd would reign among the nations. Yeshua predicts that he would be handed over to the nations for judgment.

Ashlamatah

The Prophet speaks of Ephraim and the war against the Amalek, insinuating that next week is Shabbat Zakhor. The “Messenger of the L-rd” v 23 (Prophet in the Targum) prophesied the things of G-d that will soon transpire. Yeshua as the Son of Man [the Prophet] foretells of his demise and resurrection in Yerushalayim. Like the woman Yael how overcame Sisera with a tent-peg (and allusion to Messiah Yeshayahu 22:23, Ez 9:8, Ze 10:4), Yeshua would rise from the dead.

1. Why were the Talmidim first **“amazed and/but followed,”** but then **“they were struck with fear”?**

They realized that Yeshua was going up to die and leave them exposed to potential death themselves.

They are amazed at his tenacity to proceed to Yerushalayim knowing that his death is pending there. They were struck with fear wondering what might become of them, more precisely knowing that they would suffer in a similar manner.

1. In your opinion, what is the chief purpose that Hakham Tsefet wants to address in Mordechai (Mark) 10:32-34?

He wants us to realize that our mission is more important than the day to day things that we lean on. He wants us to realize that death may be in store and not to shrink back.

The death and resurrection of Yeshua beautifies the oral traditions, the act of discipleship and the government of God. By carefully following the oral traditions and becoming Torah Scholars, we will establish the theocratic society. We should also be willing to do what it takes to beautify, strengthen and glorify the Torah (Both written and oral) even if it means our own death.

Be diligent in matters such as “[the performance of] righteous deeds, and [time spent in] study of Torah.”

1. In your opinion, and taking into consideration all of the above readings for this Sabbath, what is the prophetic message for this week?

Be prepared to sacrifice yourself, and bring an offering for the service of HaShem.

Always walk worthy of the Torah; Make yourself a gift to God by being willing to lay down your life to beautify the name and personage of God.

Be diligent in service to HaShem.

We must walk the way (dereck) of discipleship under the Master of Nazareth and adhere to the Teacher(s) he has provided us. Without such discipline how could one survive the earthquakes and tsunamis of life?

Don’t be like Japan and the Arab Middle East. Be hospitable! Pesach is coming. We need to fix up our house now during this preparation time.