

Tzav
"Command"

Torah Reading: Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

Haftarah Reading: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 9:22-23

Shemini
"Eighth"

Torah Reading: Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47

Haftarah Reading: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

We are combining these two parashas so we can have some extra time to study Passover.

Study Notes

Priestly duties

- The first daily duty described is the changing of the ashes of the altar of burnt offerings. (Lev. 6:1-3).
- Each morning, the priest tended to removing the residue of the day before and cleaning the altar for another day's activity. Apply to Matthew 6:23-33.
- Priests were to also keep the fire going, even on Shabbat. (Vayikra 6:5).

Blood

- Imagine the amount of blood the priests worked with daily. It was sprinkled, squeezed (foul), poured, and sometimes the priest dipped his finger in it.
- It was a constant reminder of the cost of sin. Apply to Luke 24.

Nadav and Avihu

- What specifically was the crime of these two brothers? Some of the rabbinical reasoning is that they "...sinned by reaching for God through the dictates of their own hearts rather than through the path set by God."
- Aren't many guilty today of the same thing by finding their 'own path' to God instead of going through Christ?