

Sefer Vayikra / from Sinai to Sanctuary to Society/ shiur #1

"Vayikra" – a 'calling' or a 'concept'

Source sheet for shiur by Menachem Leibtag,

INTRODUCTION

Usually, the name we give the books of Chumash is simply the first primary word of the book, but not its primary theme. In our opening shiur, we begin with a short discussion of the word "Vayikra" in Chumash, to explain our specific title for this year's study of the book of 'Leviticus'

I. Opening Discussion -

A.

Based on your previous study of Sefer Vayikra –

What do you think is its primary theme(s) & topic(s)

How does it relate to the other books of the Chumash

[i.e. what makes it unique -

B.

Up until this point, have there ever been 'korbanot'

If so, when & where have we found them

What has been their purpose?

Were they 'burnt offerings' - or a shared meal?

C.

Can you recall any other instance in Chumash, when

Hashem 'calls' upon anyone - introduced by "vayikra"

Has He ever 'called upon' Moshe before in this way?

Discuss

II. From Sinai to Sanctuary - introduction

Previous instances in Chumash of Hashem 'calling'

Breishit chapter 3

ח וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, מִתְּהֵלֶךְ
בֶּגֶן--לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם; וַיִּתְּחַבֵּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ,
מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, בְּתוֹךְ, עֵץ הָגֶן.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden toward the cool of the day; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

ט וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, אֶל-
הָאָדָם; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, אֵיפָּה.

9 And the LORD God called unto the man, and

said unto him: 'Where art thou?'

Note the Akeyda as well [but Hashem's angel] / chap. 22

At the Burning Bush - Shmot chapter 3

ד וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה, כִּי סָר לִרְאוֹת; וַיִּקְרָא
אֵלָיו אֱלֹהִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסִּנֵּה, וַיֹּאמֶר
מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה--וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִי.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said: 'Moses, Moses.' And he said: 'Here am I.'

ה וַיֹּאמֶר, אֶל-תִּקְרַב הֵלֶם; שֶׁל-
נַעֲלֶיךָ, מֵעַל רַגְלֶיךָ--כִּי הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר
אַתָּה עוֹמֵד עָלָיו, אֲדָמָת-קֹדֶשׁ הוּא.

5 And He said: 'Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.'

...

י וְעַתָּה לֵךְ, וְאַשְׁלַחְךָ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה;
וְהוֹצֵא אֶת-עַמִּי בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִמִּצְרָיִם.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people the children of Israel out of Egypt.'

יא וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים, מִי אֲנֹכִי,
כִּי אֵלֶיךָ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה; וְכִי אוֹצִיא אֶת-בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִמִּצְרָיִם.

11 And Moses said unto God: 'Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?'

יב וַיֹּאמֶר, כִּי-אֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ, וְזֶה-לָּךְ
הָאוֹת, כִּי אֲנֹכִי שְׁלַחְתִּיךָ: **בְּהוֹצִיאְךָ
אֶת-הָעָם, מִמִּצְרָיִם, תַּעֲבֹדוּן אֶת-
הָאֱלֹהִים, עַל הַהָר הַזֶּה.**

12 And He said: 'Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be the token unto thee, that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.'

Taking us to Shmot chapter 19

א בַּחֹדֶשׁ, הַשְּׁלִישִׁי, לִצְאֹת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל,
מִמִּצְרָיִם--בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה, בָּאוּ מִדְבַּר
סִינַי.

1 In the third month after the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

ב וַיִּסְעוּ מִרֶפְדִּים, וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינַי,
וַיַּחֲנוּ, בְּמִדְבָּר; וַיַּחֲנוּ-שָׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל, נֶגֶד
הַהָר.

2 And when they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mount.

ג וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים; **וַיִּקְרָא**
אֵלָיו יְהוָה, מִן-הָהָר לֵאמֹר, כֹּה תֹאמַר
לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב, וְתִגִּיד לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying: 'Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

ד אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרַיִם;
וְאֲשָׂא אֶתְכֶם עַל-כַּנְפֵי נְשָׁרִים, וְאָבֹא
אֶתְכֶם אֵלַי.

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself.

ה וְעַתָּה, אִם-שָׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמָעוּ בְּקוֹלִי,
וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי--וְהָיִיתֶם לִי
סִגְלָה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, כִּי-לִי כָל-הָאָרֶץ.

5 Now therefore, if ye will hearken unto My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be Mine own treasure from among all peoples; for all the earth is Mine;

ו וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מַמְלַכֶּת כֹּהֲנִים, וְגוֹי
קָדוֹשׁ: אֵלֶּה, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבֹּר,
אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

6 and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.'

And hence to Shmot chapter 24:

יב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, עֲלֵה אֵלַי
הָהָרָה--וְהָיָה-שָׁם; וְאֶתְּנָה לְךָ אֶת-
לֶחֶת הָאֲבֹן, וְהַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוָה, אֲשֶׁר
כָּתַבְתִּי, לְהוֹרֹתָם.

12 And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Come up to Me into the mount and be there; and I will give thee the tables of stone, and the law and the commandment, which I have written, that thou mayest teach them.'

טו וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הָהָר; וַיִּכַּס הָעָנָן,
אֶת-הָהָר.

15 And Moses went up into the mount, and the cloud covered the mount.

טז וַיֵּשְׁכֶן כְּבוֹד-יְהוָה עַל-הַר סִינַי,
וַיִּכַּסְהוּ הָעָנָן שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים; **וַיִּקְרָא אֶל-**
מֹשֶׁה בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, מִתּוֹךְ הָעָנָן.

16 And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and the seventh day He called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

יז וּמֵרָאָה כְּבוֹד יְהוָה, כְּאֵשׁ אֹכֶלֶת
בְּרֹאשׁ הָהָר, לְעֵינֵי, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

17 And the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

יח וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה בְּתוֹךְ הָעָנָן, וַיַּעַל אֶל-
הָהָר; וַיְהִי מֹשֶׁה, בָּהָר, אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם,
וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה. {פ}

18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud, and went up into the mount; and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

Note parallel in the final verses of Sefer Shmot

לג וַיִּקַּם אֶת-הַחֹצֵר, סָבִיב לַמִּשְׁכָּן
וְלַמִּזְבֵּחַ, וַיִּתֵּן, אֶת-מָסַךְ שַׁעַר הַחֹצֵר;
וַיִּכַּל מֹשֶׁה, אֶת-הַמִּלְאָכָה. {פ}

33 And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work. {P}

לד וַיִּכַּס הָעָנָן, אֶת-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד;
וַיִּכְבֹּד יְהוָה, מְלֵא אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן.

34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

לה וְלֹא-יָכַל מֹשֶׁה, לָבוֹא אֶל-אֹהֶל
מוֹעֵד--כִּי-שָׁכַן עָלָיו, הָעָנָן; וַיִּכְבֹּד
יְהוָה, מְלֵא אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן.

35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of meeting, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.--

לו וּבִהְעֲלֹת הָעָנָן מֵעַל הַמִּשְׁכָּן, יִסְעוּ בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּכָל, מִסְעֵיהֶם.

36 And whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward, throughout all their journeys.

לז וְאִם-לֹא יַעֲלֶה, הָעָנָן--וְלֹא יִסְעוּ, עַד-יוֹם
הָעֲלָתוֹ.

37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

לח כִּי עָנָן יְהוָה עַל-הַמִּשְׁכָּן, יוֹמָם, וָאֵשׁ, תִּהְיֶה
לַיְלָה בּוֹ--לְעֵינֵי כָל-בֵּית-יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּכָל-
מִסְעֵיהֶם. {ש}

38 For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and there was fire therein by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.--

Shmot 40	Shmot 24
לד וַיִּכַּס הָעָנָן, אֶת-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד; וַיִּכְבֹּד יְהוָה, מְלֵא אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן.	טו וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-הָהָר; וַיִּכַּס הָעָנָן, אֶת-הָהָר.
לה וְלֹא-יָכַל מֹשֶׁה, לָבוֹא אֶל- אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד--כִּי-שָׁכַן עָלָיו, הָעָנָן; וַיִּכְבֹּד יְהוָה, מְלֵא אֶת- הַמִּשְׁכָּן.	טז וַיִּשְׁכֵּן כְּבוֹד-יְהוָה עַל-הָר סִינַי, וַיִּכַּסְהוּ הָעָנָן שֶׁשֶׁת יָמִים; וַיִּקְרָא אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׂבִיעִי, מִתּוֹךְ הָעָנָן.
לו וּבִהְעֲלֹת הָעָנָן מֵעַל הַמִּשְׁכָּן, יִסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּכָל, מִסְעֵיהֶם.	יז וּמָרָאָה כְּבוֹד יְהוָה, כָּאֵשׁ אֹכֶלֶת בְּרֹאשׁ הָהָר, לְעֵינֵי, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.
לז וְאִם-לֹא יַעֲלֶה, הָעָנָן--וְלֹא יִסְעוּ, עַד-יוֹם הָעֲלָתוֹ.	יח וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה בְּתוֹךְ הָעָנָן, וַיַּעַל אֶל-הָהָר; וַיְהִי מֹשֶׁה, בָּהָר, אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם, וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה
לח כִּי עָנָן יְהוָה עַל-הַמִּשְׁכָּן, יוֹמָם, וָאֵשׁ, תִּהְיֶה לַיְלָה בּוֹ--לְעֵינֵי כָל- בֵּית-יִשְׂרָאֵל, בָּכָל-מִסְעֵיהֶם. {ש}	

Continuation of travel found in Bamidbar chapter 9:

טו וּבַיּוֹם, הָקִים אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן, כְּסֶה
הָעֹנֵן אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן, לְאַהֲלֵי הָעֵדֻת; וּבַעֲרֹב
יְהִי עַל-הַמִּשְׁכָּן, כְּמֵרָא-אֵשׁ--עַד-בֹּקֶר.

15 And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, even the tent of the testimony; and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until morning.

טז כֹּן יִהְיֶה תָמִיד, הָעֹנֵן יִכָּסְנוּ;
וּמֵרָא-אֵשׁ, לַיְלָה.

16 So it was alway: the cloud covered it, and the appearance of fire by night.

יז וּלְפִי הָעֲלוֹת הָעֹנֵן, מֵעַל הָאֹהֶל--
וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן, יִסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וּבְמָקוֹם,
אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכֹּן-שָׁם הָעֹנֵן--שָׁם יַחֲנוּ, בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל.

17 And whenever the cloud was taken up from over the Tent, then after that the children of Israel journeyed; and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel encamped.

יח עַל-פִּי יְהוָה, יִסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְעַל-
פִּי יְהוָה, יַחֲנוּ: כָּל-יְמֵי, אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכֹּן
הָעֹנֵן עַל-הַמִּשְׁכָּן--יַחֲנוּ.

18 At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they encamped: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they remained encamped.

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The Mishkan in Shmot vs Vayikra

How to build it/ vs / How to use it

- . Transition from Shmot to other books / now with the "shchina"
 - Vayirka - Laws relating to God's presence / kedusha
 - Bamidbar - travelling with shchinah to eretz Yisrael
 - Devarim - Laws from brit Sinai relating becoming a nation

III. Note Moshe Rabeinu's speech begins in Devarim 5:1

א וַיִּקְרָא מֹשֶׁה, אֶל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם שְׁמַע
יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַחֻקִּים וְאֶת-הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי דֹבֵר
בְּאָזְנֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם; וּלְמַדְתֶּם אֹתָם, וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם לַעֲשׂוֹתָם.

1 And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them: Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and observe to do them.

ב יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, כָּרַת עִמָּנוּ בְרִית--בְּחֹרֵב.

2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

And in chapter 29 - introduction to Brit Nitzavim

א וַיִּקְרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲלֵהֶם: אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם, אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְעֵינֵיכֶם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם,
לְפָרְעָה וּלְכָל-עַבְדֶּיהָ, וּלְכָל-אֶרְצוֹ.

1 And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them: Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land;

ב הַמִּסּוֹת, הַגְּדֹלֹת, אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ, עֵינֶיךָ--
הָאֵתוֹת וְהַמִּפְתִּים הַגְּדֹלִים, הֵהֵם.

2 the great trials which thine eyes saw,
the signs and those great wonders;

ג וְלֹא-נָתַן יְהוָה לָכֶם לֵב לָדַעַת, וְעֵינַיִם
לָרְאוֹת וְאָזְנִים לִשְׁמָעַ, עַד, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

3 but the LORD hath not given you a
heart to know, and eyes to see, and ears
to hear, unto this day.

ד וְאִלֶּךְ אֶתְכֶם אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה, בַּמִּדְבָּר; לֹא-בָלוּ
שַׁלְמַתֵיכֶם מֵעַלְיֶיכֶם, וְנַעֲלָךְ לֹא-בָלְתָה מֵעַל רַגְלָךְ.
.....

4 And I have led you forty years in the
wilderness; your clothes are not waxen
old upon you, and thy shoe is not
waxen old upon thy foot.

ח וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, **אֶת-דְּבָרֵי הַבְּרִית הַזֹּאת**,
וַעֲשִׂיתֶם, אֹתָם--לְמַעַן תִּשְׁכִּילוּ, אֵת כָּל-
אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּן. {פ}

8 Observe therefore the words of this
covenant, and do them, that ye may
make all that ye do to prosper. {P}

ט אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כָּלְכֶם, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: רָאשֵׁיכֶם שְׁבִיטֵיכֶם, זִקְנֵיכֶם
וְשִׁטְרֵיכֶם, כָּל, אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

9 Ye are standing this day all of you
before the LORD your God: your
heads, your tribes, your elders, and
your officers, even all the men of Israel,

י טַפְכֶם נְשִׁיכֶם--וְגֶרְךָ, אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶרֶב
מַחֲנֶיךָ: מִחֹטֵב עֵצִיךָ, עַד שֹׂאֵב מִיַּמִּיךָ.

10 your little ones, your wives, and thy
stranger that is in the midst of thy
camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto
the drawer of thy water;

יא **לְעַבְרְךָ, בְּבְרִית יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ--**
וּבְאֵלְתוֹ: אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, כָּרַת עִמָּךְ
הַיּוֹם.

11 that thou shouldest enter into the
covenant of the LORD thy God--and
into His oath--which the LORD thy
God maketh with thee this day;

יב לְמַעַן הָקִים-אֶתְךָ הַיּוֹם לִו לְעָם,
וְהוּא יִהְיֶה-לָּךְ לֵאלֹהִים--כַּאֲשֶׁר,
דִּבֶּר-לָּךְ; וְכַאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם,
לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב.

12 that He may establish thee this day
unto Himself for a people, and that He
may be unto thee a God, as He spoke
unto thee, and as He swore unto thy
fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to
Jacob.

יג וְלֹא אֶתְכֶם, לְבַדְכֶם--אֲנֹכִי, כָּרַת
אֶת-הַבְּרִית הַזֹּאת, וְאֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים, הַזֹּאת.

13 Neither with you only do I make this
covenant and this oath;

יד כִּי אֶת-אֲשֶׁר יִשָּׁנוּ פֹה, עִמָּנוּ עַמֵּד
הַיּוֹם, לִפְנֵי, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ; וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר
אֵינָנוּ פֹה, עִמָּנוּ הַיּוֹם.

14 but with him that standeth here with
us this day before the LORD our God,
and also with him that is not here with
us this day--

IV. Famous Ramban on Shmot 25:1

How the Mishkan is an eternal reminder of Brit Sinai

וסוד המשכן הוא

שיהיה הכבוד אשר שכן על הר סיני - שוכן עליו בנסתר.

וכמו שנאמר שם (לעיל כד טז): וישכן כבוד ה' על הר סיני,
וכתיב (דברים ה כא): הן הראנו ה' אלוהינו את כבודו ואת
גדלו, כן כתוב במשכן וכבוד ה' מלא את המשכן (להלן מ
לד).

והזכיר במשכן שני פעמים -

וכבוד ה' מלא את המשכן, כנגד" את כבודו ואת גדלו."

והיה במשכן תמיד עם ישראל הכבוד שנראה להם בהר סיני.

ובבא משה -היה אליו הדבור אשר נדבר לו בהר סיני.

V. SEFER VAYIKRA - BASIC OUTLINE & Flow of Topic

I. Man 'can' come close to God

1->3 - Voluntary offerings ["nedava"]

4->5 - Mandatory offerings ["chova"]

6->7 - How to bring the offerings ["torot" - for the kohanim]

II. The story of the dedication of the Mishkan /

8 ->10 The 7 days of the 'miluim' / 8th day / & Tragedy

III. When man 'cannot' come close to God [temporarily]

11-15 "tumah" / How you contract it & how to get rid of it

16 - Entering the Holy of Holies - When/ How / Who

17 - Respect of the Temple

=====

IV. "kedusha" of Man

18->20 - Act according to your holiness / do's & don'ts

21->22 - Special laws for the "kohanim"

V. "kedusha" in the realm of time

23 - The "moadim" - holidays/ when Am Yisrael meets God

24 - daily & weekly symbols / + special story

VI. "kedusha" in the realm of space

25- "shmitta" & the Land of Israel

26 - Blessings & Curses - on the Covenant

VII. 27 - Epilogue - Man offering 'himself' to God ["erchin"]

Discuss "kedusha" & where we find it in the book (and why)