

Torah Studies – Statutes #376-378

Statute Summary:

Statute 376: Yahweh’s people are to strengthen and help the elderly.

Statute 377: Yahweh’s people are to rise in respectful greeting when an aged person enters.

Statute 378: Yahweh’s people are to show honor and favor towards our elders.

Leviticus 19:32 “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
RISE UP	6965	qûm	to <i>rise</i> , get up, make good, help, hold, help to lift up, make to stand up, stir up, strengthen
BEFORE	6440	pânîym	from (among), the <i>face</i> , favour, fear of, for, forefront, presence
HOARY HEAD	7872	śêybâh	old <i>age</i> : - be gray (grey, hoary) hairs (headed)
HONOUR	1921	hâdar	to <i>swell up</i> , to <i>favor</i> or <i>honour</i> , glorious, honour, put forth
OLD MAN	2205	zâqên	<i>old</i> : - aged, ancient (man), elder (-est), old (man, men and women), senator
FEAR	3372	yârê'	<i>To fear</i> ; morally to <i>revere</i> , (be had in) reverence

Synthesis:

The Commandment to honor our fathers and mothers, as we have seen, first and foremost applies to Yahweh, Whom we are to honor as our Heavenly Father. Thus, we see that the first level of honor, in obedience to the Fifth Commandment, is spiritual – directed towards our Heavenly Father.

Honoring our father and mother certainly applies to our literal parents, as we have seen in our study of the Fifth Commandment, but it also applies to humans outside our biological families. Scripture refers to mothers and fathers in Israel. For example, in Judges 5:7, Deborah is called a “mother in Israel”. This is a spiritual title. And of course, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are also known as our “fathers”. Whether we are literally related to someone or not, honor of our father and mother also applies to honoring our elders in the Body of Messiah – Israel.

When we become part of the saved – the Family of Yahweh – we are considered as family with every saved person. In the Bible, Yahshua asks, “Who are my mother and brothers?” in Matthew 12:48...

Torah Studies – Statutes #376-378 (*continued*)

...Mark 3:33, and Luke 8:21 in response to someone telling Him that His mother and brothers were outside asking to speak with Him. He then explains that those of the Father's Kingdom are His Family. In other words, the ones we will spend Eternity with are our "forever family". And, of course, we pray that our biological family members will be among the saved!

Understanding this principle, extends our understanding of the scope of the Fifth Commandment. We are to give honor to the elderly, especially the aged and the spiritual elders of spiritual Israel!

One way that honor is especially given to our elders is in how we are to greet them when they enter a room. Traditionally, it was known as good etiquette, that when someone entered a room, the people already in the room would stand and greet the newcomer. To this day, this is a respectful and welcoming gesture signaling acknowledgment of that person. But this tradition and practice of good etiquette is based upon the Biblical Statute of Leviticus 19:32.

This Statute principle is repeated in the New Testament as well:

- 1 Peter 5:5 – "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- 1 Timothy 5:1-2 – "Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity."
- 1 Timothy 5:17 - Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

Torah Studies – Statutes #379-381

Statute Summary:

Statute 379: Yahweh’s people are to be holy, as our Heavenly Father is holy.

Statute 380: Yahweh’s people are to demonstrate holiness in reverence and respect for our parents.

Statute 381: Yahweh’s people are also to demonstrate holiness in reverence and respect for the mothers and fathers (elders) of Israel.

Leviticus 19:2-3 “Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, **Ye shall be holy**: for I the LORD your God Am holy. **Ye shall fear** every man his **mother**, and his **father**, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
YE SHALL BE	1961	hâyâh	to exist, that is, be or become, come to pass, quit oneself
HOLY	6918	qâdôsh	sacred (ceremonially or morally); a saint, a sanctuary: - holy (One), saint
YE SHALL FEAR	3372	yârê'	to fear; morally to revere; causatively to frighten, (be had in) reverence
MOTHER	517	'êm	a mother (as the bond of the family); in a wide sense (both literally and figuratively)
FATHER	1	'âb	father in a literal and immediate, or figurative chief, forefather, principal

Understanding Fathers and Mothers in Israel:

The term “a Mother” or “a Father” in Israel is rarely used in our modern vernacular. So what does this title mean?

Well, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, are called our spiritual Fathers. But this term applies to all the Biblical patriarchs, in a lesser way. Regarding the title “Mother in Israel”, the Judge of Israel, Deborah held this title in Judges 5:7 (I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel. She along with Barak, who wouldn’t go to war without her, arose to do battle with God leading the charge).

What does this title entail and how are elders of Israel entitled to take it?

Torah Studies – Statutes #379-381 (*continued*)

The following are the characteristics of true Fathers and Mothers of Israel:

- A father or mother of Israel is willing to actively uphold and defend the cause of Yahweh, especially in a time of great apostasy. In the time of Deborah, the nation of Israel was in such a state of spiritual decline that there were no men with the fortitude to stand for the righteousness of God. But Deborah, as a mother in Israel, was unwavering in her defense of the truth. When the enemy threatens the Kingdom and Family of Yahweh, a Father and Mother in Israel will zealously meet him in battle.
- A father or mother of Israel is quick to acknowledge that the sovereign God of Heaven is Israel's deliverer. They understood the timeless truth that Yahweh is the source of their strength. Although they may occupy a position of great authority, their perspective is never skewed. In Judges chapter 5 we find the Song which Deborah wrote to chronicle this truth. (Read also chapter 4 to understand her song)
- A father or mother of Israel is one who inspires others to abandon their lackadaisical attitude and fight for the cause of Yahweh. The other elders and warriors of Israel were seemingly resigned to defeat because of the military superiority of Sisera and his army. This did not deter Deborah (nor deter David when he faced Goliath) She mustered the warriors of Israel and a great victory was given by the Hand of Yahweh.

The biggest key to true eldership is not age – its maturity. Maturity involves unselfishness. It is developed in love, which is the opposite of selfishness. First, we are called to love Yahweh. And then we are to love ourselves and others... Selfishness is the key manifestation of immaturity. So, if we are 90 years old, yet selfish, we cannot be considered to be an Elder of Israel for we are not spiritually mature.

Spiritual maturity is what we are all called to grow into – to develop, in Christ. The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians of the importance of having many fathers (like him) to imitate (1 Corinthians 4:15). But while all humans become elderly, and while the elderly should all be treated with respect, not all the elderly become Elders in Israel.

Torah Studies – Statutes #382-384

Statute Summary:

Statute 382: An oblation is a bloodless offering. The meat offering (aka meal offering) is an oblation. Literal oblation offerings ended with the Death of Messiah (Daniel 9:24-26).

Statute 383: The meat offering is to be seasoned with salt.

Statute 384: Salt represents the Covenant of Yahweh and must be present with every oblation offering.

Leviticus 2:13 “And every **oblation** of thy **meat offering** shalt thou **season** with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the Covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
OBLATION	7133	qorbân	something <i>brought near</i> the altar, a sacrificial <i>present</i> : oblation, that is offered, offering
MEAT OFFERING	4503	minchâh	<i>bestow</i> ; a <i>donation</i> ; <i>tribute</i> ; a sacrificial <i>offering</i> (usually bloodless and voluntary)
SEASON	4414	mâlach	to <i>disappear</i> as dust; to <i>salt</i> season, temper together, vanish away

Synthesis:

Immediately after the lamb was offered for the daily sacrifice, an oblation response was given. The oblation is the thank offering which is given as a response to the offering of the lamb. It is honoring our Heavenly Father, for His Provision of the Lamb. The oblation represents us. We are the sacrifice of the oblation. In the oblation offering, first a meal offering was presented and then a drink offering.

The meal offering represents us living for the glory of God. The drink offering represents us pouring ourselves out for God so completely that we are willing to die for His cause, if He asks us to do so. When Paul was about to be martyred, he knew he was going to die. So, he told his fellow Christians that he was about to be poured out like a drink offering.

Let's look at the meal and drink offerings and see what spiritual lessons we can find, showing us how God wants us to offer ourselves, by His Grace, as acceptable living sacrifices.

The Meal Offering (Leviticus 2:1-16; 6:14-23)

–The Meal Offering was made from fine flour mingled with oil, plus salt and frankincense.

Torah Studies – Statutes #382-384 (continued)

The Drink Offering (Genesis 35:14; Exodus 29:40-41; Numbers 28:7-10)

–The Drink Offering was poured out

- 1) Leviticus 2:1-3 “And when any will offer a meat offering unto Yahweh, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon: And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereout his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, [to be] an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto Yahweh: And the remnant of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of Yahweh made by fire.”

Before we look at the ingredients in the meal offering, in order to identify the spiritual meaning and message they each contain, let's start by looking at the reference to meal offerings at the end of this passage. The meal offering is a holy offering made to Yahweh. And it is the offering made by fire.

Remember what Paul said we should be in Romans 12:1? We are to be the holy sacrifice – made holy in Yahweh, of course.

- 2) Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

MEAL OFFERING - Now let's look at the ingredients in the meal or meat offering (also known as the meat offering, although there was no flesh in it):

- 3) Leviticus 23:1-3 “And when any will offer a meat offering unto Yahweh, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon: And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereout his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto Yahweh: And the remnant of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of Yahweh made by fire.”

There is one last ingredient which must be in the meal offering:

- 4) Leviticus 2:13 “And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”

Now let's look at the spiritual significance of each ingredient in the meal offering.

- 1) **The Meal Offering was without leaven** - In 1 Corinthians 5:6-7, we read: “...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump...”
- 2) **Fine Flour** - The lump of dough is made of fine flour. Leaven is the agent which raises the dough. Seeing that the leaven of righteousness or sin leavens the flour, we can quickly identify the flour. The fine flour of the meal offering represents our lives, cleansed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. The meal offering is unleavened, because our first stage, thank offering is to be unleavened from sin...

Torah Studies – Statutes #382-384 (continued)

- 3) **Olive Oil** - To the flour, olive oil is added. Olive oil represents the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The oil also represents our anointing and calling, which each of us have, in Christ
 - 1 Samuel 16:13 “Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of Yahweh came upon David from that day forward. So, Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.”
- 4) **Frankincense** - Frankincense was also added to the meal offering. Frankincense represents faith, without which it is impossible to please Yahweh - Hebrews 11:6. Frankincense was known in Bible times to be an appropriate gift to give to God. This demonstrated an awareness that the true worship of God always required faith. The word “frankincense” is from the Hebrew word **lebonah** with the root **libbah**. These words mean: “white heart.” To be an acceptable living sacrifice, we need a clean heart, as it says in Psalm 51:10.
- 5) **Salt** - Finally, salt was added to the offering. Salt is a symbol of a godly witness.
 - Matthew 5:13 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

DRINK OFFERING - Because the Drink Offering is 'poured out' upon the existing offering, there is a thought of 'wasting' or 'being wasted' (compare Matthew 26:8). But, this is a “human” misunderstanding. For as Mary showed when she poured out the expensive perfume from the alabaster bottle, the offering of such an expensive gift lavishly bestowed in worship of the Saviour is far from wasted. It is an offering of love demonstrating our willingness to give of ourselves completely to the Saviour – in thankful response for His salvation.

In Genesis 35:14, Jacob pours out a drink offering to signify he is giving his life back to God, consecrating himself for the house of God, 'Beth-El'.

In Exodus 29:43-45, Aaron and his sons have just been consecrated, giving their lives for the Tabernacle service, so that God may have a dwelling place. For this to be valid, there is need, morning and evening, of daily offerings, including a lamb for a Burnt Offering, a Meal Offering and a Drink Offering. Twice daily, there is renewed consecration in the Tabernacle by the priests. This is a picture for us in our faith in Yahshua Christ.

Martyrdom is the ultimate drink offering. Both Job and Stephen lived as oblation offerings. They were fully submitted to Yahweh, all the way to the point of death. In Job's case, Yahweh didn't take him all the way to death, but Job was submitted enough to God to have gone that full distance. This is what it means to be a living sacrifice.

The apostle Paul spoke of himself being "poured out as a drink offering" on the sacrifice and priestly service of the faith of the saints in Philippi (Philippians 2:17), as he contemplated the possibility of soon having his life ended on account of the gospel.

Thus, our drink offering is a life so submitted and surrendered to Yahweh that doing His will is our greatest joy. We offer ourselves completely holding nothing back, even our very lives. The offering of the lamb was so powerful, so priceless, so impactful, that the only appropriate response to such an expensive Gift, was a fully and completely surrendered life – evermore living in thankfulness to God.

Torah Studies – Statutes #382-384 (*continued*)

This is why the oblations were offered in response to the offering of the lamb every day in the Sanctuary service. When we can clearly see the Lamb and the significance of this offering and what it means in our lives, we will find the motivation for becoming the meal and drink offering in response.

Torah Studies – Statute #385-387

Statute Summary:

Statute 385: Yahweh wants His children to be led by individuals who love Him and know, teach, and walk in His Torah. For this reason, leaders within the body of Messiah are to be Torah-keepers and persons who work to turn others to obedience and righteousness. (Ps. 111:10 and Dan. 12:3).

Statute 386: There should be multiple witnesses among the saved that the person being considered for leadership meets these requirements.

Statute 387: Yahweh is the One Who anoints a leader of Israel, establishing them in a position.

Deuteronomy 1:13 “Take you **wise** men, and **understanding**, and **known** among your **tribes**, and **I will make** them **rulers** over you.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
WISE	2450	châkâm	Wise-hearted man, (root) to be wise in mind, word or act, to teach wisdom
UNDERSTANDING	995	bîyn	to separate mentally (or distinguish), discern <i>understand</i> : attend, consider, diligently
KNOWN	3045	yâda'	to know (properly to ascertain by seeing)
TRIBES	7626	shêbeṭ	to branch off; a scion, a stick, a clan: correction, dart, rod, sceptre, staff, tribe
I WILL MAKE	7760	śûm	to put, appoint, bring, call [a name], mark, + name, ordain, wholly, work
RULERS	7218	rô'sh	captain, chapter, chief (-est place, man, things), priest]), lead

Wisdom on Choosing Good Leaders:

- "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)
- "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers." (Proverbs 11:4)
- "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (Proverbs 9:10)
 - Paul, in describing the unrighteous, says, "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:18).
- "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." (Proverbs 16:25)

Torah Studies – Statute #385-387 *(continued)*

One of the reasons we need to seek God and His wisdom before we choose leaders is this: We are so easily fooled! The apostles sought Yahweh's leadership in choosing a leader to replace Judas among the disciples... We need Yahweh's direction to know who **He** would choose.

A position of leadership is not one of honor to the individual. It is a position of responsibility before Yahweh. A wise and understanding "ruler" (leader) is one who first recognizes Yahweh's anointing and second recognizes that good leadership in this position is only established through Torah-obedience and walking after the leading-instruction of Yahweh's Spirit and Will.

When leadership is selected in this manner, it is easy and appropriate to honor and respect their position of leadership.