

¹¹On your new moons you shall present a burnt offering to the LORD: two bulls of the herd, one ram, and seven yearling lambs, without blemish. ¹²As grain offering for each bull: three-tenths of a measure of choice flour with oil mixed in. As grain offering for each ram: two-tenths of a measure of choice flour with oil mixed in. ¹³As grain offering for each lamb: a tenth of a measure of fine flour with oil mixed in. Such shall be the burnt offering of pleasing odor, a gift to the LORD. ¹⁴Their libations shall be: half a *hin* of wine for a bull, a third of a *hin* for a ram, and a quarter of a *hin* for a lamb. That shall be the monthly burnt offering for each new moon of the year. ¹⁵And there shall be one goat as a purification offering to the LORD, to be offered in addition to the regular burnt offering and its libation.

¹⁶In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, there shall be a passover sacrifice

morning *tamid*, because there could be no offering after the *tamid* of the evening. It should be noted that purification sacrifices are never brought on *Shabbat*, because intimations of human wrongdoing are not permitted on this joyous day.

ROSH HODESH, THE NEW MOON (vv. 11–15)

In early Israel, this was an important festival celebrated by families and clans in a state of ritual purity at the local sanctuary.

14. Only here are the libation quantities

¹¹וּבְרֵאשִׁי חֲדָשֵׁיכֶם תִּקְרִיבוּ עֹלָה לַיהוָה פָּרִים בְּנֵי־בָקָר שְׁנַיִם וְאַיִל אֶחָד בְּכָשִׁים בְּנֵי־שָׁנָה שִׁבְעָה תְּמִימִם: ¹²וּשְׁלֹשָׁה עֶשְׂרִים סֶלֶת מִנְחָה בְּלוּלָה בְּשֶׁמֶן לַפָּר הָאֶחָד וּשְׁנֵי עֶשְׂרִים סֶלֶת מִנְחָה בְּלוּלָה בְּשֶׁמֶן לְאֵיל הָאֶחָד: ¹³וְעֶשְׂרֵן עֶשְׂרֵן סֶלֶת מִנְחָה בְּלוּלָה בְּשֶׁמֶן לַכֶּבֶשׂ הָאֶחָד עֹלָה רִיחַ נִיחֹחַ אֲשֶׁה לַיהוָה: ¹⁴וְנִסְכֵּיהֶם חֲצִי הַהֵין יִהְיֶה לַפָּר וּשְׁלִישֵׁת הַהֵין לְאֵיל וּרְבִיעֵת הַהֵין לַכֶּבֶשׂ יַיִן זֹאת עֹלַת הָחֵדֶשׁ בְּחֹדְשׁוֹ לְחֹדְשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה: ¹⁵וּשְׁעִיר עִזִּים אֶחָד לַחֲטָאת לַיהוָה עַל־עֹלַת הַתָּמִיד יַעֲשֶׂה וְנִסְכּוֹ: ס

¹⁶וּבַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן בְּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם

specified. Because they are always the same, they need not be repeated.

burnt offering Use of this term implies the auxiliary grain offering and libation.

new moon Hebrew: *hodesh*, “new moon,” as in 29:6. (The word can also mean “month.”)

PASCHAL SACRIFICE AND UNLEAVENED BREAD (vv. 16–25)

The day of the paschal offering and the seven-day Festival of Unleavened Bread originally were separate and distinct holidays (cf. Lev. 23:5–6). The fact that the paschal offering is mentioned here

15. purification offering to the LORD Hebrew: *hattat l'Adonai*. Noting that this is the only place in the Torah where this phrase occurs, the Talmud understands it to mean “a purification offering for the LORD.” It is brought on God’s behalf on *Rosh Hodesh* (when the new moon appears) as an apology to the moon for having made it smaller and less consequential

than the sun (BT Hul. 60b). Did the Sages here picture God apologizing for all the unfairness of life—to people who are born less healthy, gifted, or fortunate than others? Given the traditional identification of *Rosh Hodesh* as a woman’s festival, did the Sages imagine God expressing regret to women for having a less prominent role than men for so much of history?

HALAKHAH L'MA'ASEH

28:11. new moons The Jewish calendar is based on the cycles of the moon. An extra month (Adar I) is added 7 times in 19 years to make the lunar calendar conform to the solar year. Each Hebrew month begins with the New Moon (*Rosh Hodesh*); it is announced in synagogue (except for the month of *Tishrei*) on the preceding *Shabbat*, in the Blessing of the Month (*Birkat Ha-Hodesh*). See Comment on Exod. 12:2.

to the LORD, ¹⁷and on the fifteenth day of that month a festival. Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days. ¹⁸The first day shall be a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. ¹⁹You shall present a gift, a burnt offering, to the LORD: two bulls of the herd, one ram, and seven yearling lambs—see that they are without blemish. ²⁰The grain offering with them shall be of choice flour with oil mixed in: prepare three-tenths of a measure for a bull, two-tenths for a ram; ²¹and for each of the seven lambs prepare one-tenth of a measure. ²²And there shall be one goat for a purification offering, to make expiation in your behalf. ²³You shall present these in addition to the morning portion of the regular burnt offering. ²⁴You shall offer the like daily for seven days as food, a gift of pleasing odor to the LORD; they shall be offered, with their libations, in addition to the regular burnt offering. ²⁵And the seventh day shall be a sacred occasion for you: you shall not work at your occupations.

²⁶On the day of the first fruits, your Feast of Weeks, when you bring an offering of new grain to the LORD, you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. ²⁷You shall present a burnt offering of pleasing odor to the LORD: two bulls of the herd, one ram, seven yearling lambs. ²⁸The grain offering with them shall be of choice flour with oil mixed

לַחֹדֶשׁ פֶּסַח לַיהוָה: ¹⁷וּבַחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה חַג שִׁבְעַת יָמִים מִצּוֹת יֹאכֵל: ¹⁸בַּיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן מִקְרֵא-קֹדֶשׁ כָּל-מְלֹאכֶת עֲבֹדָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ: ¹⁹וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם אֲשֶׁה עֲלֶיהָ לַיהוָה פָּרִים בְּנֵי-בָקָר שְׁנַיִם וְאַיִל אֶחָד וְשִׁבְעָה כִבְשִׁים בְּנֵי שָׁנָה תְּמִימִם יִהְיוּ לָכֶם: ²⁰וּמִנְחָתָם סֹלֶת בָּלוּלָה בַשֶּׁמֶן שְׁלֹשָׁה עֶשְׂרֹנִים לַפָּר וּשְׁנֵי עֶשְׂרֹנִים לְאֵיל תַּעֲשׂוּ: ²¹עֶשְׂרוֹן עֶשְׂרוֹן תַּעֲשֶׂה לַכֶּבֶשׂ הָאֶחָד לְשִׁבְעַת הַכִּבְשִׁים: ²²וְשַׁעִיר חֲטָאת אֶחָד לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיכֶם: ²³מִלֵּבֶד עֹלֹת הַבָּקָר אֲשֶׁר לְעֹלֹת הַתָּמִיד תַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת-אֵלֶּה: ²⁴כָּאֵלֶּה תַּעֲשׂוּ לַיּוֹם שִׁבְעַת יָמִים לֶחֶם אֲשֶׁה רִיחַ-נִיחֹחַ לַיהוָה עַל-עֹלֹת הַתָּמִיד יַעֲשֶׂה וְנִסְכּוֹ: ²⁵וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׂבִיעִי מִקְרֵא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם כָּל-מְלֹאכֶת עֲבֹדָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ: ס

²⁶וּבַיּוֹם הַבְּכוּרִים בְּהִקְרִיבְכֶם מִנְחָה חֲדָשָׁה לַיהוָה בְּשִׁבְעַתִּיכֶם מִקְרֵא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם כָּל-מְלֹאכֶת עֲבֹדָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ: ²⁷וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם עֹלָה לְרִיחַ נִיחֹחַ לַיהוָה פָּרִים בְּנֵי-בָקָר שְׁנַיִם אֵיל אֶחָד שִׁבְעָה כִבְשִׁים בְּנֵי שָׁנָה: ²⁸וּמִנְחָתָם סֹלֶת בָּלוּלָה בַשֶּׁמֶן שְׁלֹשָׁה עֶשְׂרֹנִים

even though it is a private sacrifice (see Exod. 12:1–11) indicates that by this time the two festivals had become fused.

17. festival Both the paschal sacrifice and the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread are observed at the sanctuary, precisely as instituted by Deut. 16:1–6.

18. occupations Hebrew: *m'lekhet avodah*; literally, "laborious work," of the sort that is forbidden on the festivals. This is in contrast to "any work" (*kol m'lakhah*), which is forbidden on *Shabbat* and *Yom Kippur* (Num. 29:7; Lev. 23:3, 28). The nonlaborious work permitted (by implication) on the festivals is not defined, except for the explicit permission to pre-

pare food on the first and last days of *Pesah* (Exod. 12:16).

FEAST OF WEEKS (vv. 26–31)

This festival, which marks the start of the wheat harvest, does not depend on the lunar calendar. It occurs seven weeks after the beginning of the barley harvest (Lev. 23:15–16). In this regard it is like *Shabbat*, which is also independent of the lunar calendar.

26. day of the first fruits This day is also called "the Feast of the Harvest" (*Hag ha-Katzir*) in Exod. 23:16, and "the Feast of Weeks" (*Hag [ha-]Shavu-ot*) in Exod. 34:22, Deut. 16:10, 16, and 2 Chron. 8:13.