

Sequence of Avodah (Service) of Kohanim and Leviim in Bet Hamikdash

Ref: Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Temidin Umusafin, Chapter 6

Order of the *Avodah* (Service)

- *Memuneh* of *peyasot* knocks on Temple Gates before dawn
- Gates opened
- Inspection made of *Azarah* (Courtyard)
- Bakers of *Chavitin* aroused
- There are already Priests present, who have already immersed and are garbed in Priestly garments. They are waiting in the *Lishkat Hagazit*.

🕒 Reminder:

Pack on *Bet Habechirah*



- Lottery is carried out (first 2).
- Priest removes ashes from *Mizbeach* (outer). He then arranges the wood for the new fires and brings up the 2 logs.
- All utensils necessary for the day are now removed from *Lishkat Hakelim*.
- Lamb to be sacrificed is given water to drink
- Lamb taken to slaughter area in North by Priest who was chosen to slaughter.
- Priests who need to carry the limbs follow to that area.
- Opening of the great Gate of *Hechal*.
- Slaughter of lamb.
- 2 Priests enter the *Hechal* to remove ashes from Inner *Mizbeach* and the *Menorah*.
- Blood received from sacrifice and sprinkled onto Outer *Mizbeach*.
- 5 Lamps of *Menorah* kindled.
- Lamb is skinned.
- Lamb cut into its portions.
- Priests bring various limbs onto the west, lower side of Ramp – side closest to the *Hechal*. *Musaf* limbs were placed on lower, east side and those of *Rosh Chodesh* on top, in the middle of the Ramp.
- Limbs and Ramp¹ salted.
- All Priests gather in *Lishkat Hagazit* and recite the brachah of *ahavat olam*, the *aseret hadibrot*, the 3 paragraphs of *shema*, *emet veyatziv*, *retzei* and *sim shalom*.
- Third and fourth lotteries held
- Priest enters *Hechal* to offer the *Ketoret*. On his way in a Priest throws a rake between *Ulam* and *Mizbeach* to make a loud noise to indicate to:
 - Priests to prostrate
 - *Leviim* to gather for singing

¹ to prevent slipping

- Head of *maamad* would gather impure people at Gate of *Nicanor* (East gate)
- Remaining 2 lamps of *Menorah* lit.
- The 2 Priests in *Hechal* join the other Priests standing on the steps of the *Ulam*.
- Limbs brought up from Ramp to the *Mizbeach*.
- Priests standing on steps of *Ulam* recite *Birkat Kohanim*.
- *Solet Hanesachim* (flour) brought up to *Mizbeach*.
- *Chavitin* offered on fire.
- *Yayin Nisuch* (wine).
- While wine being poured, the *Leviim* sing and play music.
- Also now, 2 Priests holding trumpets were standing on the Marble Table (West of Ramp) and the *Segan* (assistant to *Kohen Gadol*) was standing on the corner of the *Mizbeach* with flags in his hand. He waves the flags and the 2 Priests blow the trumpets.
- When the Priests actually started pouring the wine the *Segan* waves his flags and the cymbals would be sounded. Then the trumpets, and then Levites begin singing. (Song is recited only over *Olot Hatzibur* and *Shelamim*). There were 9 trumpet blasts and at each one the people would prostrate.
- On *Shabbat*, the 2 bowls of frankincense are offered together with the *Musaf* before the *Nisuch Hayayin*.
- The order of the afternoon was slightly different to morning (i.e. no ashes removed from outer altar, and lotteries of afternoon were different.)