

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT TZAV

31 MARCH-1 APRIL | 10 NISAN

## Your Body, Your Temple?



**BATSHEVA WOLF**

Tribe Educator

In the parasha of this week we read about the offerings in the Temple; how are these offerings relevant to us? An interesting insight is stated in the Talmud: “Rabbi Yochanan and Rabbi Elazar both said: As long as the Temple stood, the altar atoned for a person; now that the Temple no

longer stands, a person’s table atones for them” (Berachot 55a).



No Jewish party is complete without food, the joke goes. But, similarly, there is no other religion with as many laws concerning food. There are laws about *what* you can eat (only kosher animals, vegetables only after they’ve been checked for bugs, milk only from certain animals), *when* you can eat (we wait between eating meat and milk, there are days when we don’t eat at all) and *how* you can eat (we say a blessing before we eat). A whole framework to navigate our eating process, which

alludes to the fact that what we eat has a spiritual impact on us. We are what we eat, Judaism says. Kosher food isn’t necessarily healthier for our bodies - but spiritually, God has given us guidance on what foods are best for our soul.

In a world where healthy eating is so much part of our vocabulary, I see that the parallels were there in Judaism from early on. The offerings atoned for us in the days of the Temple. These days, we have an avenue to keep ourselves on a spiritual track with what we consume. So, for now, *Bete’avon!*

## Pigpen Parasha



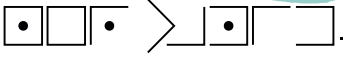

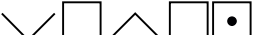
Decipher the codes below using the Pigpen Cipher.

E.g.  is A,  is Z etc.

A	B	C	J	K	L
D	E	F	M	N	O
G	H	I	P	Q	R

S	W	
T	X	Y
V	Z	



- The  were instructed how to prepare and offer the .
- To remember the Menorah and the fire on the Altar, every synagogue has a .
- The High Priest was called . He and his sons had to stay in the Temple compound for  days during the inauguration of the Temple.