

הלכה of the Week

~ Times of תפילה ~

Our three אבות fixed the times of prayer:

אברהם instituted שחרית in the morning,
 יצחק instituted מנחה in the afternoon and
 יעקב instituted מעריב (or ערבית) in the evening.

The prayers that we recite are also a substitute for (take the place of) the קרבנות, sacrifices, that were offered to Hashem in the בית המקדש:

שחרית, the morning prayer, is in place of the daily קרבן תמיד that was offered in the morning;
 מנחה, the afternoon prayer, is in place of the daily קרבן תמיד that was offered in the afternoon;
 מעריב, the evening prayer, is in place of the burning of the sacrifices' parts at night.

מוסף is recited after שחרית on Shabbat, Yom Tov (festivals) and Rosh Chodesh (the first day of the Hebrew month) and reminds us of the מוסף (additional) sacrifice that was offered on those days.

In our תפילות we pray for the בית המקדש to be rebuilt soon so that we may once again serve ה' with קרבנות. We look forward to this because the Temple service will bring the whole Jewish nation much closer to Hashem.

פירקי אבות of the Week

פרק א

ז נתאי הארכלי אומר, הרהק משכן רע, ואל תתחבר לרשע, ואל תתיאש מן הפרענות:

Nittai of Arbel says:

- Stay far away from a bad neighbour;
- Do not be friends with a bad person;
- Do not think that a bad person will escape his punishment.

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