

Restoration of Torah Ministries Haftarah Connections

Finding Thematic Connections Between Parashat Shemini (Leviticus 9:1-11:47) and its
Haftarah Reading (2 Samuel 6:1-7:17 (A); 6:1-19 (S))

1. How is II Samuel 6:2 (And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baale Judah ***to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.***) thematically connected to the Torah portion?¹
2. How is II Samuel 6:6-7 (And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, ***Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.***) thematically connected to the Torah portion?²
3. How is II Samuel 6:8 (***And David became angry*** because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.) thematically connected to the Torah portion?³
4. How is II Samuel 6:17 (So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. ***Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings*** before the Lord.) thematically connected to the Torah portion?⁴
5. How is II Samuel 6:18 (And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, ***he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.***) thematically connected to the Torah portion?⁵
6. How is II Samuel 6:22 (And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. ***But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.***) thematically connected to the Torah portion?⁶
7. How is II Samuel 7:6 (For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.) thematically connected to the Torah portion?⁷
8. How is II Samuel 7:16 (And your house and ***your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.***) thematically connected to the Torah portion?⁸

¹ Leviticus 9:4-6 – also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the Lord, and a grain offering mixed with oil; ***for today the Lord will appear to you.***” So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the Lord. Then Moses said, “This is the thing which the Lord commanded you to do, ***and the glory of the Lord will appear to you.***” The common theme connecting these two passages concerns the great events each anticipates. The Haftarah reading speaks of the great event of bringing the ark to the city of David, whereas the Torah portion records the dedication ceremony for the tabernacle. Both events were historic and revolved around a suitable dwelling place for Adonai.

² Leviticus 10:1-2 – Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, ***each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had***

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not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

³ Leviticus 10:16 – Then Moses made careful inquiry about the goat of the sin offering, and there it was—burned up. ***And he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar***, the sons of Aaron *who were left*, saying . . .

⁴ Leviticus 9:22 – Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, ***the burnt offering, and peace offerings.***

⁵ Leviticus 9:22-23 – Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, ***blessed them***, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, ***and came out and blessed the people.*** Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people,

⁶ Leviticus 10:3 – And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘***By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.***’” So Aaron held his peace.

⁷ The Haftarah reading mentions that Adonai had, *not dwelt in a house since the time that He brought the children of Israel up from Egypt*. This is connected to the Torah portion because Parashat Shemini is the Torah portion which records how Adonai first began to dwell with Israel in the Tent/Tabernacle.

⁸ Leviticus 10:9 – “Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. ***It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.*** Both passages mention a decree that will last forever, the enduring kingdom of David versus the enduring statute prohibiting a priest to partake of intoxicating liquor while serving in the tabernacle.