

CONSECRATION
OF THE PRIESTS

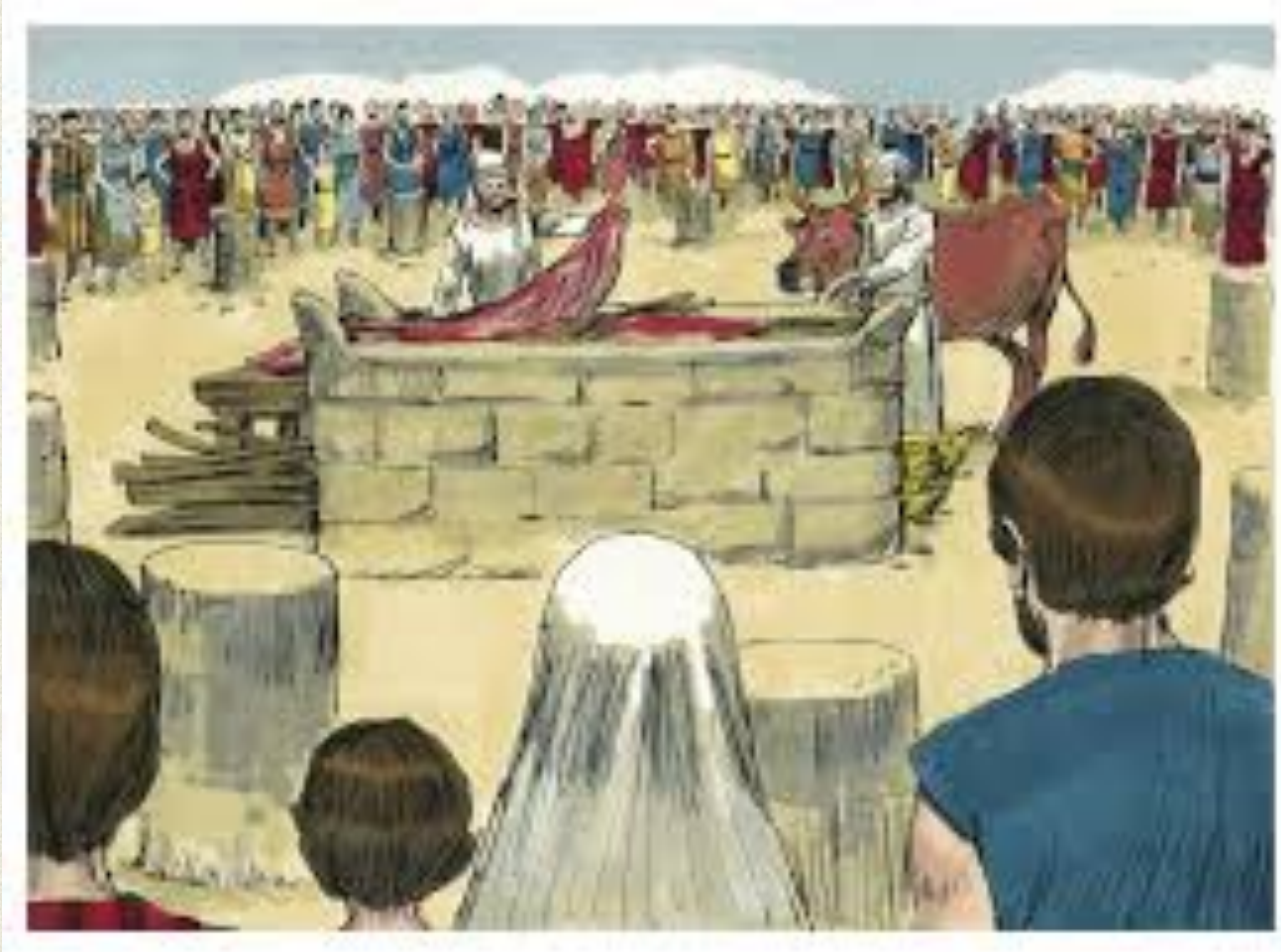
—*Leviticus 8*—

אשר צוה יהוה

JUST AS יהוה COMMANDED

The Seven Divisions of Chapter 8

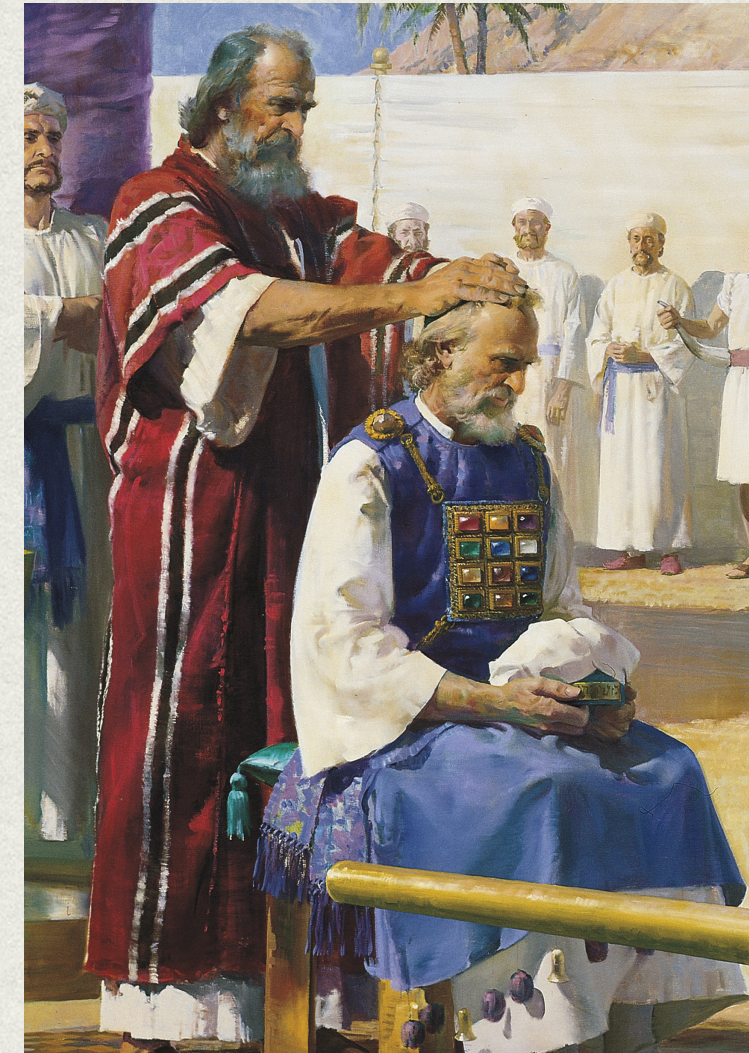
1. Assemble the Components



2. Robing the Priests



3. Anointing The Priests



4. Bull of the Sin Offering



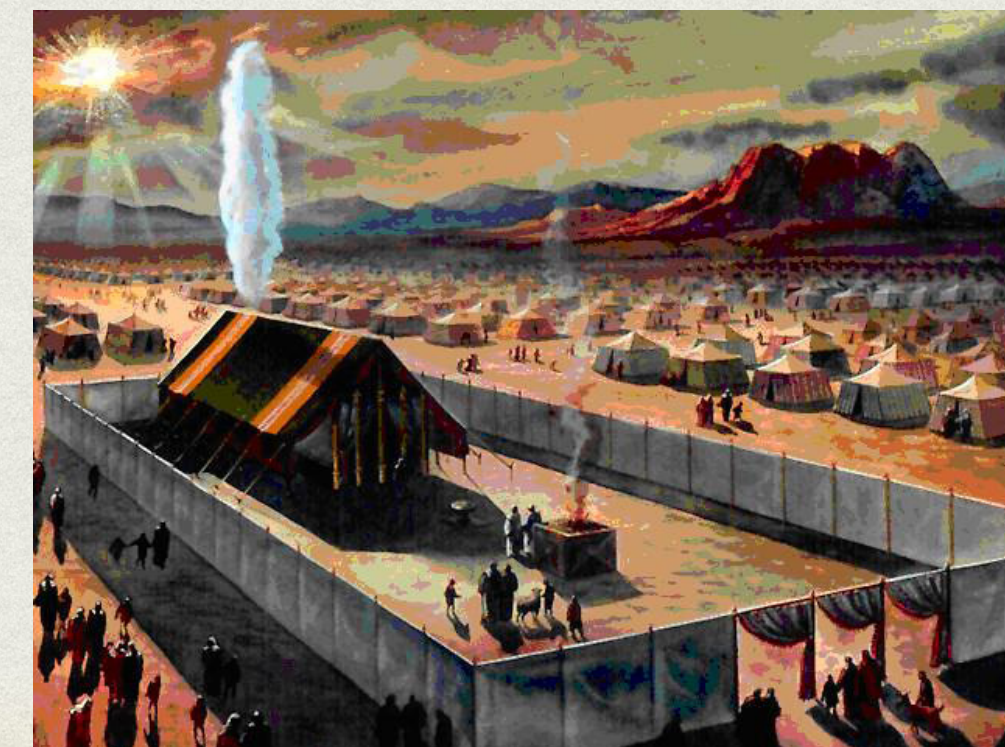
5. Ram of the Burnt Offering



6. Ordination Ram



7. Seclusion Ritual





ASSEMBLE THE COMPONENTS OF THE CEREMONY

Leviticus 8:1-4

STEP ONE FOR ORDINATION

1. Take Aaron and his sons
 - A. Aaron took the gold, now Aaron is being taken
 - B. Sacrificial language
2. The vestments
3. The anointing oil
4. The bull of the sin offering
5. The two rams
6. The basket of the unleavened bread
7. Assemble the whole community at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting





INVESTING (IN) THE PRIESTS

Leviticus 8:6-9

AN INTIMATE MOMENT BETWEEN BROTHERS

- Read 8:6-13
- What would this have been like for Moses? For Aaron? For Aaron's sons?
- What must have this been like for the community, witnessing this moment?
- Sacrifice language used to describe this moment:





ANOINTING THE PRIESTS

Leviticus 8:11-13

UNCTION JUNCTION...WHATS YOUR FUNCTION?

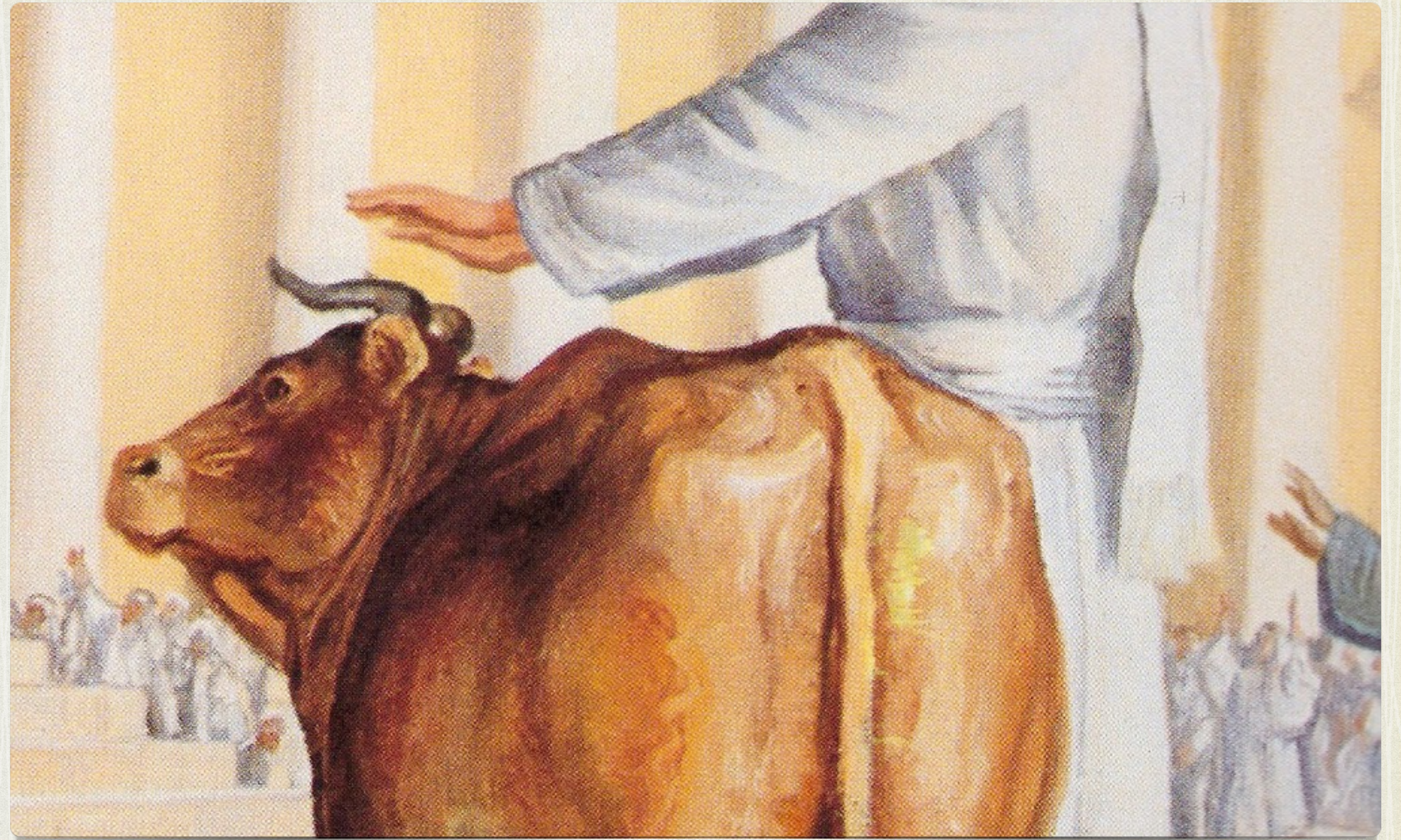
- Not just cosmetic, therapeutic or magical
- Elevation of status and spirit
- Milgrom describes the role of blood and oil as a “detergent effect” ridding the altar and the body of impurities



UNCTION JUNCTION...WHATS YOUR FUNCTION?

- Divine sanction as opposed to legal practice
- King and Moshiach? Anointed vessels for God's use
- Priests are different...the anointing is sanctifying; removal from the realm of profane and relocation into the holy.





BULL OF PURGATION

Leviticus 8:14-17

UP IN SMOKE

- וְהִקְרַבְתָּ אֶת־הַפָּר לִפְנֵי אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְסָמַךְ אֶהָרוֹן וּבָנָיו אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־רֹאשׁ הַפָּר:
- Lead the bull up to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and let Aaron and his sons lay their hands upon the head of the bull. (Exodus 29:10)
- וַיִּגֶשׁ אֶת פֶּר הַחֻטָּאת וַיִּסָּמֶךְ אֶהָרוֹן וּבָנָיו אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־רֹאשׁ פֶּר הַחֻטָּאת:
- He led forward the bull of purgation. Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bull of sin offering. (Leviticus 8:14)





RAM OF THE OLAH

Leviticus 8:19-21

A RAM FOR יהוה

- Eskenazi and Weiss point out that the majority of the time an Olah offering is offered first, however we see in the ordination ritual that the purgation offering, an offering which resembles the burnt offering, but with a different purpose is first and the burnt offering comes second. Discuss.





RAM OF THE ORDINATION

Leviticus 8:22-29

PRIESTHOOD VS. M'TSORA

- What is the connection between the ritual of ordaining the priests and the cleansing of m'tzora (Leviticus 14:14-24)?
- Shaving, washing, change of clothing
- The burnt offering is offered after the purgation offering
- Blood on the right bodily protuberances.
- Anointing with oil
- Sin offering
- Burnt offering
- 7 days of being ostracized from the camp
- T'nufah (Elevation) offering



~LAYING HANDS~

- Samech is a very interesting letter.
- 60 is complete, in the ancient world.
- 1/60 death, wine, Mayim chayim...
- The Samech is the unbroken chain.
- Smicha is the unbroken chain of transmission from Sinai to the next ordained rabbi.
- Fun thought: perhaps may you live to be 120, is to have two complete lives? May you live twice...





Don't leave

THE SECLUSION OF THE PRIESTS

Leviticus 8:30-36

BUT WHY?

- Quarantined, like someone with m'tzora
- Parallels the days of shiva
 - Pre-mourning for Nadab and Abihu
- “Hell” week

foreshadow

verb

a literary device used to hint at events yet to come - and to keep readers guessing

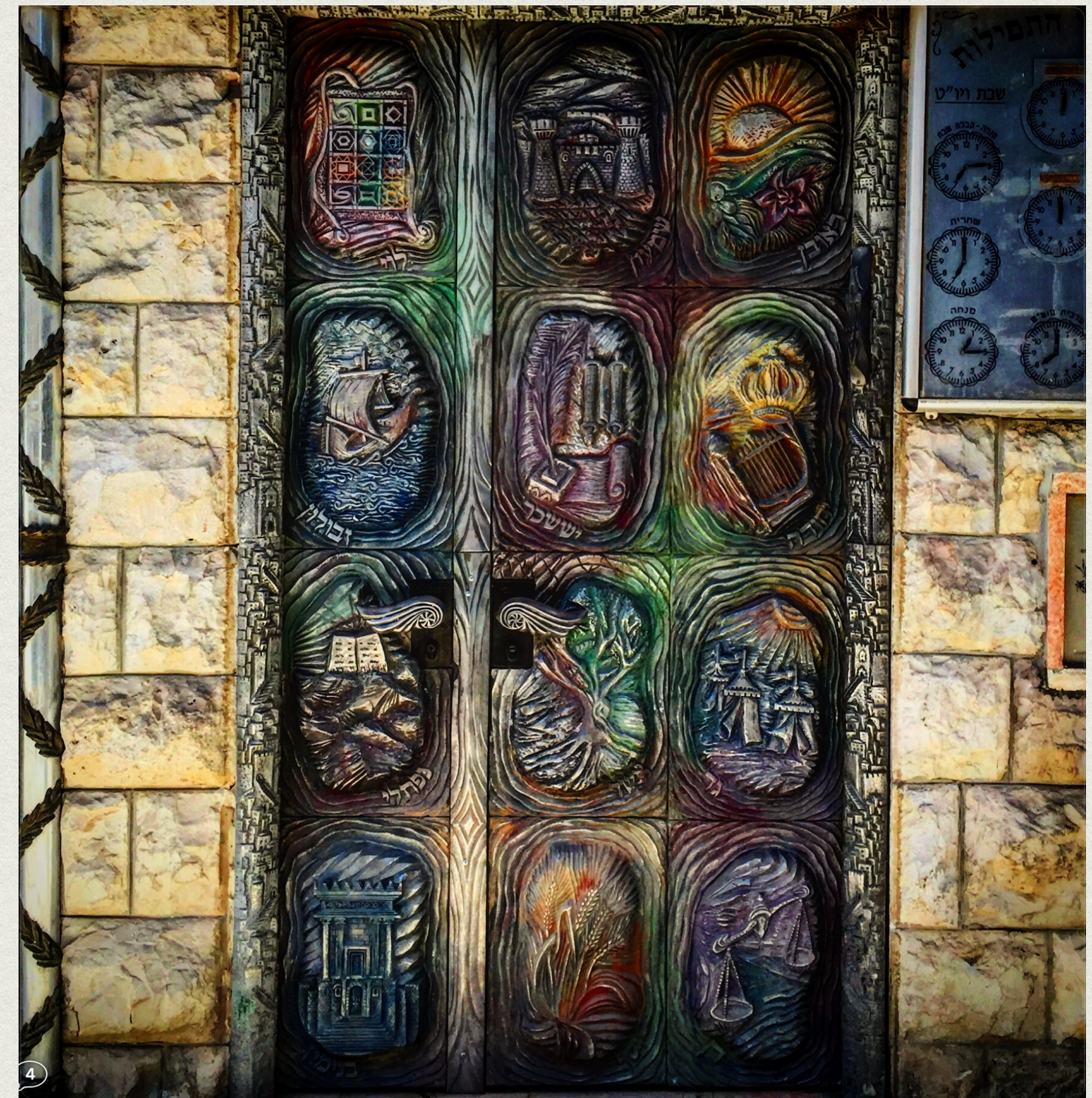
LIMINALITY OF THE DOORWAY

- Rite of separation—> margin/limen—>aggregation of new powers/responsibility/obligation
- What is a liminal moment?
- “Liminality implies a lack of status, property, insignia...Behavior is normally passive or humble; they must obey instructions implicitly and accept arbitrary punishment without complaint.” (79)
- Milgrom asks why the liminal is racked with fear—Liminality implies a lack of status, property, insignia...Behavior is normally passive or humble; they must obey instructions implicitly and accept arbitrary punishment without complaint.” (79)



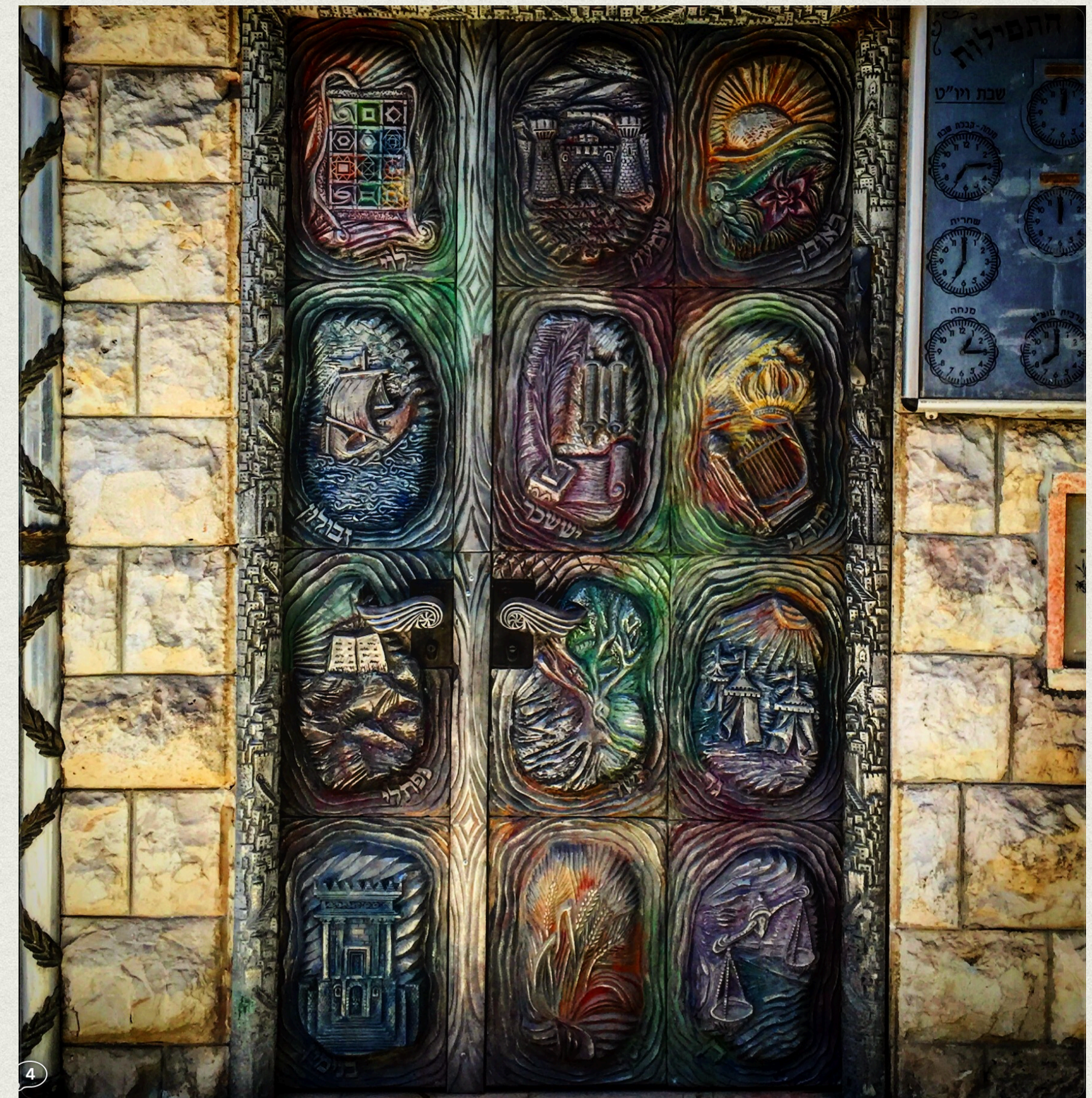
LIMINALITY OF THE DOORWAY

- Douglas suggests that the lack of classification creates uncertainty and unrest.
- Milgrom suggests that the lack of status calls for a return to order.
- I believe that fear creates synergy.
- What do bunnies, Levitic Priests and fraternities all have in common?



LIMINALITY OF THE DOORWAY

- Doorways, in Tanakh, are often the frame or locale of moments of life and death.
- In front of the Petach Ohel Moed is where sacrifice takes place, so there is literal death and expiation which brings life.
- The story of Ahijah and Jeroboam's wife who, by returning to through the door, ends the life of her child. (I Kings 14:2)
- Or as in the pivotal moment in the Passover story, where blood is painted on the doorposts and threshold to preserve Israelite life (Exodus 12:22)



א — ל — מ

- ויכס העֶנָן אֶת־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּכְבוֹד יְהוָה מָלֵא אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן:
- the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the Presence of the LORD **filled** the Tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34)
- וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶחָשׁוּרוּשׁ וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכָּה מִי הוּא זֶה וְאֵי־זֶה הוּא אֲשֶׁר־מָלֵא לְבוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת כֵּן:
- Thereupon King Ahasuerus demanded of Queen Esther, “Who is he and where is he who **dared** to do this?” (Esther 7:5)
- וְאַבְנֵי־שֵׁהֶם וְאַבְנֵי מַלְאִים לְאַפֹּד וְלַחֲשׂוֹן:
- lapis lazuli and other stones for **setting**, for the ephod and the breastpiece.
- —אל מלא רחמים—
- אָמַר אֹנִיב אֶרְדֹּף אֲשִׁיג אַחֲלֶק שָׁלַל תִּמְלָאֲמוּ נִפְשֵׁי אֶרְיֵק חֲרָבִי תוֹרִישְׁמוּ יָדַי:
- The foe said, “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall have its fill of them. I will bare my sword— My hand shall subdue them.”
- הַתְּמַלְאוֹת—filling, fulfillment, realization, accomplishment

