

# Vayikra - Nefesh and Mincha

Source Sheet by Marina Yergin

ויקרא ב' א'-י'

(א) וְנִפֶּשׁ כִּי־תִקְרִיב קָרְבָּן מִנְחָה לַיהוָה סֶלֶת יִהְיֶה קֶרְכָּנוּ וְיִצָּק עָלֶיהָ לְשֶׁמֶן וְנָתַן עָלֶיהָ לְבָנָה: (ב) וְהִבִּיאָה אֶל־בְּנֵי אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֲנִים וְקִמֵּץ מִשָּׁם מְלֵא קַמְצוֹ מִסֻּלְתָּהּ וּמִשְׁמֶנָּה עַל כָּל־לִבְנֹתָהּ וְהִקְטִיר הַכֹּהֵן אֶת־אֲזִכְרֹתָהּ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אִשָּׁה רֵיחַ נִיחֹחַ לַיהוָה: (ג) וְהַנּוֹתֵרֶת מִן־הַמִּנְחָה לְאַהֲרֹן וּלְבָנָיו קֹדֶשׁ קֹדָשִׁים מֵאִשֵּׁי יְהוָה: (ד) וְכִי תִקְרַב קָרְבָּן מִנְחָה מֵאִפָּה תִגָּוֵר סֶלֶת חֲלֹת מִצַּת בְּלוּלָת בִּשְׁמֹן וּרְקִיקֵי מִצֹּת מְשֻׁתִּים בִּשְׁמֹן: (ה) וְאִם־מִנְחָה עַל־הַמִּסְבֵּת קֶרְכָּנוּ סֶלֶת בְּלוּלָה בִּשְׁמֹן מִצָּה תִהְיֶה: (ו) פָּתוֹת אֹתָהּ פָּתִים וְיִצְקֶת עָלֶיהָ שֶׁמֶן מִנְחָה הִוא: (ז) וְאִם־מִנְחַת מִרְחֻשֵׁת קֶרְכָּנוּ סֶלֶת בִּשְׁמֹן תַּעֲשֶׂה: (ח) וְהִבֵּאתְ אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה מֵאֲלָה לַיהוָה וְהִקְרִיבָהּ אֶל־הַכֹּהֵן וְהִגִּישָׁה אֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ: (ט) וְהָרִים הַכֹּהֵן מִן־הַמִּנְחָה אֶת־אֲזִכְרֹתָהּ וְהִקְטִיר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אִשָּׁה רֵיחַ נִיחֹחַ לַיהוָה: (י) וְהַנּוֹתֵרֶת מִן־הַמִּנְחָה לְאַהֲרֹן וּלְבָנָיו קֹדֶשׁ קֹדָשִׁים מֵאִשֵּׁי יְהוָה:

## Leviticus 2:1-10

(1) When a person presents an offering of meal to the LORD, his offering shall be of choice flour; he shall pour oil upon it, lay frankincense on it, (2) and present it to Aaron's sons, the priests. The priest shall scoop out of it a handful of its choice flour and oil, as well as all of its frankincense; and this token portion he shall turn into smoke on the altar, as an offering by fire, of pleasing odor to the LORD. (3) And the remainder of the meal offering shall be for Aaron and his sons, a most holy portion from the LORD's offerings by fire. (4) When you present an offering of meal baked in the oven, [it shall be of] choice flour: unleavened cakes with oil mixed in, or unleavened wafers spread with oil. (5) If your offering is a meal offering on a griddle, it shall be of choice flour with oil mixed in, unleavened. (6) Break it into bits and pour oil on it; it is a meal offering. (7) If your offering is a meal offering in a pan, it shall be made of choice flour in oil. (8) When you present to the LORD a meal offering that is made in any of these ways, it shall be brought to the priest who shall take it up to the altar. (9) The priest shall remove the token portion from the meal offering and turn it into smoke on the altar as an offering by fire, of pleasing odor to the LORD. (10) And the remainder of the meal offering shall be for Aaron and his sons, a most holy portion from the LORD's offerings by fire.

## What does the word mincha mean?

### Chizkuni, Leviticus 2:1:1-2

מנחה, *v'nefesh ki-takriv*, an individual brings the so-called "gift offering," *mincha*, a meal offering, as a voluntary offering. This applies even to the High Priest. This type of offering is never presented by a group of people. מנחה, *mincha* is another word for "gift."

**Why is the person who gives the *mincha* referred to as *nefesh*? What does *nefesh* mean?**

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## Rashi on Leviticus 2:1:1

וּנְפֶשׁ כִּי תִקְרִיב, *v'nefesh ki-takriv*, AND WHEN A PERSON (or “A SOUL”) WILL OFFER — Nowhere is the word נֶפֶשׁ, *nefesh*, employed in connection with free-will offerings except in connection with the meal-offering. For who is it that usually brings a meal-offering? The poor man! The Holy One, blessed be He, says, as it were, I will regard it for him as though he brought his very soul (נֶפֶשׁ, *nefesh*) as an offering (Menachot 104b).

## Why is this important for us to know today, when we don't give sacrifices?

It is important to note that this offering, the most inexpensive one, is said that it is given from the soul. It matters what we put into what we do, not how much money we have that we can show off. In today's society, we see that sometimes money is used inappropriately and used to get things that are maybe not from or for the soul. This text is highlighted because everyone can give from the soul -- no matter their means. And this is what God loves to recognize and remember.