PART FOUR

SACRIFICES
CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

SACRAL AND NON-SACRAL SLAUGHTER ACCORDING TO THE TEMPLE SCROLL

In columns 52–53 of the Temple Scroll (11QT), among other things, the text deals with a number of laws which relate to the slaughter of animals, either in regard to sacrifices (קדשים) or in regard to non-sacral slaughter (שהיות חולין):

1. The prohibition on sacrificing a blemished animal (11QT 52:3–5);
2. The prohibition of slaughtering a pregnant animal (11QT 52:5–7);
3. The law of the first born of a pure (kosher) animal, including the prohibition of sacrificing a blemished first-born animal (11QT 52:5–12);
4. The prohibition of non-sacral slaughter within a boundary of three days' journey from the Temple (11QT 52:14–16);
5. The obligation to slaughter blemished animals only at a distance of 30 ris from the Temple (11QT 52:16–19);
6. The prohibition on eating animals slaughtered outside of the Temple in the City of the Sanctuary (11QT 52:19–21);
7. The law of non-sacral slaughter (11QT 53:07–8).

In general, these laws deal with two things: sacral and non-sacral slaughter on the one hand, and blemished and disqualified animals on the other hand. In this paper we will deal with the first matter. Some of the other issues have already been dealt with by us elsewhere.¹

THE TEMPLE SCROLL: THE LITERARY FRAMEWORK

Before entering the subject of slaughter itself, it is necessary to make some introductory remarks regarding the Temple Scroll in general and the specific passages to be treated here. The scroll in its entirety is a reworking