

Midrash *Emor* (“Speak”)
Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23

Up to this point, Leviticus has addressed National Israel’s call to be Holy
This week’s Portion addresses the Priests’ requirement to be Holy
They were held to a Higher Standard because they were Holy!

Chapters 21 & 22 (Holiness of Priesthood) Compare with Chapters 14 & 15 (Clean & Unclean)

The Priesthood & Death Leviticus 21:1-3

- Cannot come into contact with a dead body
Except his immediate family – God understands our need to mourn
Cannot shave his head (pagan practice)
His married sister not in his family – she has become part of her husband’s family

The Priesthood & Holiness Leviticus 21:4-15

- Cannot shave head or beard nor pierce body – pagan practices
Cannot tear his garments nor “uncover” (let go) his head
If Yeshua is our High Priest, what does this say about His hair?

The Priests’ family:
Wife cannot have been a harlot nor previously married
Must be a virgin...Some say, from the tribe of Levi

What does this say about the Bride of Messiah (our Melchizedek High Priest)?

Daughter cannot be a harlot

The Priesthood & Blemishes Leviticus 21:16-24

- Cannot be: Blind Blemished Hand or Foot Scabbed
Lame Dwarf “Stones Broken”
Flat-nosed (?) Scurvy

The Priesthood has the highest standards of Holiness

The Sanctity of Holy Things Leviticus 22:1-16

“that they may separate themselves...” נָזַר nazar

Derived from נָזַר zer Crown
Israel is crowned with distinction
Not that they are permitted things not allowed to others
...but their crown holds them to higher responsibilities

Did David desecrate the showbread when he ate it?? I Samuel 21:1-7
What did Yeshua say about this?? Luke 6:1-5

Holy things are not to be used for common purposes
...but David’s situation was life-or-death – not common

The Sanctity of Offerings Leviticus 22:17-30

- No blemished animals are to be offered
Don’t give God your rejects and keep the best for yourself
Offering must be at least 8 days old
They must experience at least one Shabbat (holiness)

The Sanctity of The Name Leviticus 22:31-33

The person who desecrates the Holy Things desecrates His Holy Name
This was Moses’ sin Deuteronomy 32:49-51

What does this say about ministries today that misuse their donations???

Contrast the Sacrifices (how we can meet God) with the Feasts of the LORD (how God meets with us!)

The Feasts of the LORD (*Mo'edim*)

Leviticus 23

מוֹעֲדִים “feasts” here; “seasons” in Gen 1:14. “appointed time”

God wants to meet with each of us ... at His Appointed Times!

The Weekly Shabbat

Lev 23:1-3

Two Requirements: *Miqra Kodesh* Holy Convocation
You shall do no work

Every week God has an appointment with us!

Spring Feasts:

Passover: *Nisan* 14 Described in detail in Ex 12 **Yeshua was crucified**

Unleavened Bread: *Nisan* 15-21 Eat unleavened bread 7 days **Yeshua was buried**

First & last days are *Miqra Kodesh* & do no work

The exact definition of weekly Shabbat

Passover Seder held on evening of the 15th

Firstfruits: “day after Shabbat” “first of the firstfruits” **Yeshua resurrected!**

(Ex 23:19 & Matt 27:50-53)

Barley harvest

First of the tithe

Leviticus 27:30

Weeks 50 days from Firstfruits Wheat harvest **Torah Given at Sinai**
Leavened loaves = Gentiles included! **Holy Spirit Descends**

Waved, not burned on the Altar

Connected to Firstfruits by the Omer Count

Freedom without Instruction = Chaos!

Also *Miqra Kodesh* & do no work

Fall Feasts:

Trumpets: *Tishri* 1 Blowing of Trumpets **Seal Judgments Start**

The only Feast falling on 1st day of month, like a “thief in the night”!

Also *Miqra Kodesh* & do no work

Atonement: *Tishri* 10 Afflict your souls (fasting) **Trumpet/Bowl Judgments Start**

Offerings (Scapegoat)

Moses returned with 2nd set of tablets = forgiven of Golden Calf sin

Traditional to wear white: Atonement = Righteousness

Also *Miqra Kodesh* & do no work

Judgment Ends & Yeshua Returns at Passover!

Tabernacles: *Tishri* 15-21 Dwell in booths 7 days **Yeshua Reigns!**

Feast of Ingathering

Firstfruits of the fall harvest (olives, grapes, nuts)

Feast of the Nations – 70 sacrifices – one for every nation

First & last (8th) days are *Miqra Kodesh* & do no work

7 Feasts of the LORD: 7 days of the week; 7 Millennium

52 Weekly Sabbats + 7 Feasts $\left(\begin{array}{l} 8 @ \text{ Unleavened Bread} \\ 1 @ \text{ Weeks} \\ 1 @ \text{ Trumpets} \end{array} \right) + \left(\begin{array}{l} 1 @ \text{ Atonement} \\ 7 @ \text{ Tabernacles} \end{array} \right) = 70 \text{ Feast Days / Year}$

Blaspheming the Name of God

Leviticus 24:1-23

The Menorah must burn continually

The Oil & the Bread of Presence are pure – Holy!

Anything we do that profanes Holy Things is blaspheming God's Name!

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31 The Zadokite Priests

Brit Chadashah: John 7:37-38 & 8:12 Yeshua and The Feasts