



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL OF THE PALISADES

קהילה קדושה בית ישראל של הפליסי

*An egalitarian Conservative community
where 'welcome' is not just a word!*

PARSHAT EMOR

MAY 14, 2022 - IYYAR 13, 5282



'The Blasphemer,' by William Blake (c. 1800)

If a man cause a blemish in his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him:
breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth... Leviticus 24-19:20

אימור

PARSHOT EMOR
TORAH – LEVITICUS 21:1 – 24:23
HAFTARAH – LEVITICUS EZEKIEL 44:15-31

Emor (אָמַר — Hebrew for "speak") is the 31st weekly Torah portion (הַפְּרָשָׁה, *parashah*) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading and the eighth in the Book of Leviticus.

PARSHAT EMOR

B'Yom HaShabbat B'Yom HaShabbat Yaarchenu Lifnai Hashem Tamid..." (Vayikra 24:8). Each Shabbat he set it (the Showbread) continually before Hashem. This verse teaches the origin of the 2 loaves of bread we use each Shabbat. It also reminds us that we renew our continuous covenant with Hashem by keeping the Shabbat Holy, which is a symbol of that covenant.



When we remember and observe each Shabbat and keep it Holy, we testify that Hashem created the world in six days, ceased his creation on the seventh, and selected our people for special service. So what's so special?

A prominent attorney once concluded his defense of a religious man by stating that it appears that Jews are held to a higher standard than the rest of the world.

Indeed, Vayikra 22:32 would agree with this assessment: "V'lo T'chalilu Et Shem Kodshi V'nikdashy B'toch B'nai Yisroel Ani Hashem M'kadishchem." We are taught not to desecrate the Name of Hashem, and to sanctify His Name among His People for it is Hashem who has made us Holy. Talk about a high standard!

Imagine what we are commanded to do: strive constantly to avoid giving people a negative impression about Judaism, while behaving in a manner that always brings honor to Hashem. In doing so, we begin to realize that, like it or not, each of us holds the honor of our entire People in our hands, for the world judges us all by the actions of individual Jews.

This verse also teaches that Kiddush Hashem, the obligation to sanctify the name of Hashem applies especially "B'toch B'nai Yisroel" - To our relationships with fellow Jews. Of course, it's important to show Non-Jews how to respect the Torah. It's even more important to show Jews how to respect the Torah.

At its highest level, Kiddush Hashem means the willingness of a Jew to give his life to avoid: committing murder; the sins of immorality or idolatry. However, we have many opportunities to sanctify the name of Hashem during our lifetime, for example: Our business dealings; our personal relationships; the way we greet strangers; and many other situations in life provide unexpected ways to leave people with the most positive vision of Judaism.

Rabbi Shimon Ben Shetach once bought a camel from an Arab. Later, upon examining the animal, he found a precious stone in its collar. Although he could have kept the stone by using some legal justification, he instead returned it at once. This prompted the Arab to exclaim: "Blessed be the G-d of Shimon Ben Shetach! Blessed be the G-d of Israel!" Kiddush Hashem is, indeed, the higher standard to which the Jew is held.

THOUGHT QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Pirkei Avot 5:9 teaches that wild beasts visit the world because of Chilul Hashem - desecration of the Name of Hashem. Do you think this Mishnah refers only to the animal variety?



Emor has the most verses (but not the most letters or words) of any of the weekly Torah portions in the Book of Leviticus, and is made up of 6,106 Hebrew letters, 1,614 Hebrew words, 124 verses and 215 lines in a Torah Scroll. (Parashah Vayikra has the most letters and words of any weekly Torah portion in Leviticus.)

Emor Aliyah Summary

General Overview: This week's reading, *Emor*, discusses the laws which pertain to Kohanim (priests), and various laws which relate to sacrifices. These are followed by a lengthy discussion of the festivals. The portion concludes with the story of a blasphemer who was put to death.

First Aliyah: The *aliyah* discusses the Kohen's obligation to maintain a high level of ritual purity, and the women he may marry. An ordinary Kohen is prohibited to come in contact with a human corpse — except to attend the funerals of his next of kin — and may not marry a divorcee as well as some other women. The High Priest is not permitted to attend even family funerals, and is required to marry a virgin.

Second Aliyah: This section discusses bodily blemishes and ritual impurities which disqualify a Kohen from performing the Temple priestly duties. The *aliyah* then lays down the rules regarding who in the Kohen's household may eat *terumah*, the tithe from produce given to the Kohanim.

Third Aliyah: Blemished animals are disqualified for sacrificial use. This *aliyah* also forbids the castration of animals, sacrificing animals before they are eight days old, and slaughtering a mother animal and her child on the same day. The *aliyah* concludes with the mitzvah of *kiddush Hashem*, sanctifying G-d's Name by giving one's life rather than transgressing certain cardinal sins.

Fourth Aliyah: This section begins a lengthy discussion about the Jewish holidays. After making brief mention of the Shabbat, the Torah talks about the holiday of Passover and the mitzvah of eating matzah. On the second day of this holiday, an "*omer*" barley offering is brought in the Temple. This is followed by a seven-week counting period that culminates with the holiday of Shavuot. After discussing the Shavuot Temple service, the Torah briefly interrupts the holiday discussion to mention the obligation, when harvesting fields, to leave certain gifts for the poor.

Fifth Aliyah: The High Holidays are discussed. We are commanded to hear the *shofar* (ram's horn) on Rosh Hashanah, and to "afflict" ourselves on Yom Kippur.

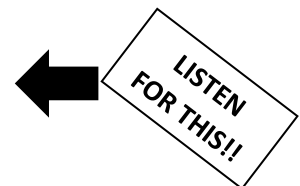
Sixth Aliyah: The autumn holiday of Sukkot is now introduced. During this seven-day holiday we are commanded to sit in outdoor booths, take the Four Species (citron, palm branch, myrtles, and willows), and rejoice before G-d. The final holiday is Shemini Atzeret, a one-day holiday which immediately follows Sukkot.

Seventh Aliyah: We are instructed to use the purest of olive oils for the daily kindling of the Temple menorah, and to arrange twelve "showbreads" on the Temple Table every Shabbat. The Torah then tells the story of a Jewish man who was put to death for blaspheming G-d. The portion concludes with the penalties for committing murder, property damages, and personal injury.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Were you ever called for an Aliya? "YA-AMOD....." Everyone is familiar with the call. BUT did you ever listen carefully to the FIRST call – the one for the Kohein to be honored with the first Aliya? It is different, and goes like this:

וַיַּעֲזֹר וַיִּגַּן וַיּוֹשִׁיעַ לְכָל־הַחוֹסִים בּוֹ, וַנֹּאמֶר אָמֵן. הַפֶּל הָבוּ
גָדֹל לְאֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְתָנוּ כְבוֹד לַתּוֹרָה. [בֵּת כַּהֵן, קָרַב. תַּעֲמֹד
בֵּת _____ הַבַּת כַּהֵן.] בְּרוּךְ שָׁנְתָן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ
יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִדְשָׁתוֹ.

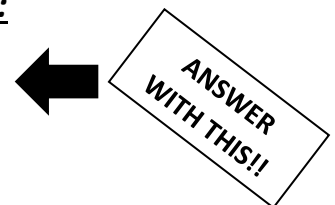


Now here is the point – after Gabbai 1 makes this call, **WE ALL SHOULD ANSWER:**

וְאַתֶּם הַדְּבָקִים בִּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, חַיִּים בְּלַכֶּם הַיּוֹם.

V-atem had-vaykeem badonai Elohaychem chayeem kul-chem hayom.

You who cling to God have been sustained to this day.



It will make Rabbi Stern *very* happy!!!!

Yahrzeits for: Friday 5/6/2022

Ms. Leta Cohen	Friend of	Mrs. Susan Glick
* Mrs. Rose Ginsburg	No Observers	
Mr. Bernard Rosenberg	No Observers	
Mr. Donald Rosenberg	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Saturday 5/7/2022

* Mr. Paul Leo Hoffman	Husband of	The Estate of Ruth Hoffman HOFFMAN
* Mr. Howard J Roth	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Sunday 5/8/2022

* Mr. Max Barnett	No Observers	
* Mrs. Janet Rubin	No Observers	
* Mrs. Annie Zwim	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Monday 5/9/2022

* Mrs. Rae Atkins	No Observers	
* Mr. Jacques Eliat	Brother of	Mrs. Anne-Marie Messing
* Miss Herman Fox	No Observers	
* Mr. Henry Martin Hammer	Husband of	Mrs. Ruth Hammer
* Mrs. Anna Hinda Lewy	No Observers	
Mrs. Milania Rosenblatt	Mother of	Mr. Viktor David
* Lt. Col. Sherman J. Umansky	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Tuesday 5/10/2022

Mr. Fred Hochheimer	Father of	The Estate of Ruth Hoffman HOFFMAN
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Yahrzeits for: Wednesday 5/11/2022

* Mrs. Esther Potack	Mother of	Mrs. Debrah Siegel
* Mr. Kurt Stern	No Observers	
* Mr. Hyman Tunick	No Observers	
Mrs. Frieda Zelmanowitz	Mother of	Mrs. Gloria Laermer

Yahrzeits for: Thursday 5/12/2022

* Mrs. Ruth Hoffman	No Observers	
* Mr. David Tischler	No Observers	