



#31 Emor Leviticus 21:1-24:23
Torah Teaching
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Names

Kefa – Peter
 Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one;
 Christ
 in the Greek means to be smudged
 Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert
 Moshe – Moses
 Shaul – Paul
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name
 Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
 Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets
 Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
 Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
 Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert
 Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
 Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
 Torah
 (We also use transliterations from Hebrew)

The Torah portion for today is Emor and it means, "say." This portion begins by saying that the Kohanim (priests) were not to make themselves unclean by touching the dead unless it was a close relative. They are also not to do rituals that the pagans did like cutting gashes in their skin. They are to be holy for God. Being holy is to do things God's ways and keep His commandments because God is an all-knowing and good God and wants what is best for us. Righteousness means to do what is right and keep God's commandments, God's law. Isaiah 51:7 NKJV says, "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults."

We are also to accept the Messiah Yeshua as commanded in the Torah. Deuteronomy 18:18-19 NKJV says, "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. and it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." We are to accept Yeshua and His gift of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:38-39). Just like the law is our helper, so is the Holy Spirit. John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "Keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth." Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the law. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Those that say we do not have to keep God's commandments are not holy. Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God." Those who do things their own way and do not pursue holiness have fallen short of God's grace and will not be in God's future kingdom.

God has good things for us. Will we accept them?

We live in a strange world that teaches philosophy and ideas that are contrary to biblical truths. Many people in our era think that the things of God are irrelevant to reality even though the writings of the Bible give people a better life. Psalms 119:93 NKJV says, "I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life." The Bible has been used to counsel and help many people to turn their life around for the better. The laws in the Bible teach us a better way.

For example, the Bible teaches that murder is wrong. Most people would agree with that. But in our modern times the reporting of murder is often excused or marginalized. Murder according to the Bible is wrong and not to be excused.

Take for example when a Muslim in the United States military killed 3 fellow soldiers and wounded several others while shouting Allah akbar. It is a phrase used by Muslims which means god is great. He was giving credit to his god while committing murder and it is a phrase commonly used by Islamic terrorists. This person while committing murder was giving praise to Allah yet the US government refused to acknowledge that he was a terrorist. He was marginalized as a deranged person. Deranged or not, the Bible teaches that murder is wrong and murders are going to the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, **murderers**, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

There are evil people out there. It is okay to defend yourself against murderers. Defending yourself is not murder. Because there are evil countries in this world, good countries need to have a good defense. A good defense is the best way for a nation to stop the evil of murderous nations.

People who do what is wrong bring evil into the world. Not too long ago, the sheriff of Los Angeles told people not to come to Los Angeles because of the crime that is going on there. Those that prosecute criminals were being lenient. There needs to be a system of justice so there is justice. There is an inclination for mankind to do evil. Without justice, evil will go unpunished, and evil will increase.

I also read that some stores in the United States were closing down because people were stealing from them, and nothing was being done. Justice requires that there is punishment for those who do what is wrong, but some have a different idea of justice. Stealing is wrong, they are taking things that do not belong to them. Somehow these criminals must think that they are not hurting anyone. I remember my dear sweet aunt feeling extremely hurt when someone stole \$20 from her. People can feel pain even for small offenses. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **nor**

thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." Shaul says, "Do not be deceived." Yet so many are deceived these days.

I remember a time when most people were following God's laws in the United States. We did not have to lock our doors like we do now. We did not have to worry about people stealing from us. Life was more peaceful and good. Those that oppose God and His laws are bringing pain and destruction into this world. That is why they are evil people. Do not be like them. You do not have to accept the murderous atheist cultures teach or the culture of false violent religions that is so prevalent today.

Do not allow your children to be taught Communism.

We talked about the murderous societies of communism last week. The following is an excerpt from last week. Communism is based on good intentions instead of on good values.

Some people think that all there is to life is to have good intentions. Good intentions can be misleading if they are not based on what the Bible teaches. For example, people sometimes think that it would be great if everyone had all they needed. While that would be nice, not everyone has the same motivation and not everyone has the good character that comes from the Bible and being committed to keeping God's commandments.

Not everyone is inclined to use their time well. Some are selfish and uncaring, some only want what comes easy, and some are inclined towards self-gratification. Some people will often maintain their life through whatever their government provides. So, say for instance that no one has the inclination to provide food, the people then will be on the verge of starvation. Those that think that everyone should all have they need while a very noble concept is not based on reality.

Good intentions does not work in reality. I read a story years ago about life in communist Cuba. The person writing the article walked into a meat market but there was no meat there. Someone was sitting there and working, but there was no meat. Communism is driven by ideas of good intentions. That is why so many people think that communism is good, but their utopian ideals are just a lie. Proverbs 12:11 NIV says, "Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."

The made-up ideals of communism have brought murder to their own people and created wars. Over 90 million people were murdered by the communist societies of just Russia and China alone. It is still going on today everywhere Communism is practiced as a form of government. Even to this day, China puts people in concentration camps and uses these people for forced labor and body parts. They call their concentration camps reeducation camps.

Communists will cite evil done in the past and ignore the evil that Communism has brought into the world and still does on a daily basis. For example, they will talk about the Crusades that occurred some 500 years ago or that at one time, slavery was practiced in the United States. That got changed. There is no more slavery. There are no crusades anymore except by some murderous nations. What would you call the murder of some 70 million people in communist China in the not-so-distant past? They will say that the Indians were massacred in the United States. While some Indians were massacred and that is terrible, wars against the Indians amounted to only 10% of the Indian population. They were not all massacred. It is a lie. Some textbooks in the United States contain outright slander against the United States and the people who are passing on these lies are the communists who live by the fantasies of utopia and good intentions instead of having good values. Save your children from these intention-based ideals that will only bring pain, destruction, and evil into society.

Now, back to our teaching for today. We must take care of the things of life, while doing what we need to stay in God's light.

There are things we need to do to take care of life. We must work, eat, take care of ourselves and our family, decide what things need to be taken care of, set up daily routines, prioritize, take care of our health, get proper rest, have fun activities, and many other things. There is a lot to life. We also need to apply God's commandments to life in all that we do. In the Bible, light refers to understanding and that is what we need to apply first and foremost. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" Those who refuse God's commandments are refusing what is best for them. Ephesians 5:8-10 NKJV says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."

We are do what is acceptable to God. God gave us the wisdom and understanding we need for life in the Bible. Even atheists often see that God's ways are a better way to live. But do not be confused with their intentions. They can often change their values to suit themselves. It is too bad that they cannot be committed to doing what is "right and good." That is what the Bible says about God's commandments. (see Deuteronomy 6:17-19). I had an atheist friend years ago who told me that he would sooner trust someone who had godly values than another atheist. Learn God's commandments and keep them.

Just because you are in a country that has terrible values, it does not mean you have to go along with what they teach. A lot of people easily see the false and hurtful values that are being taught in their country. These people who do not go along with these false intentions or ideals could be called conscientious objectors. They do not agree with what is going on in their country.

Some though need to be careful who they tell about their beliefs. In some cultures, these people are marginalized and even killed. Some whole societies are evil and even the children take part in murder. The children in some cultures inform on their parents. How do you think that 70 million people under Chinese communism were murdered? And the Chinese government is still killing its own people. I remember talking to a Muslim man years ago and I told him that Yeshua told us to love one another. He agreed with me and said we should all be doing that. Perhaps he came from a country where murder is taught and where they believe in a system of murder and control. They need to read God's word in the Bible and start keeping God's commandments. Perhaps you wonder why I talk about these things. Wouldn't it be great if we all treated others well? The Bible teaches us truths for life. Again, Psalms 119:93 NKJV says, "I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life." God's word is not just good intentions but gives us good instructions for life.

Allow God to lead you instead of worldly ways. Life seemingly leads us. Doing things God's way ensures we are headed in the right direction.

Many are headed in the wrong direction in life. People are being led by philosophy, their government, false religion, stubborn unbelief, and delusion. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NKJV says, "And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." The word pleasure can be translated pleased or to think good. People value what is wrong instead of wanting to do what is right. Like we talked about at the outset of our teaching for today. Righteousness means to do what is right and keep God's commandments, God's law. Isaiah 51:7 NKJV says, "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart is My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults."

We want to follow what the Bible says and do things God's way. Yeshua said He has not done away with the law. Some say that Yeshua did away with God's good law that gives us wisdom and understanding. Who do you think is right? Whoever breaks God's commandments and teaches others to break God's commandments will be of little importance.

Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV says,

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Some think that they will still be okay with God even if they break God's commandments. What does Peter say? What does of little importance refer to? 2 Peter

2:13-14 NKJV says, "They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children." Those that break God's commandments are under a curse. 2 Peter 2:4 NKJV says, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell." Revelation 20:10 NKJV says, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone." If we do not warn each other, who will? Surely those who are accursed will not try to help us.

So, stay headed in the right direction and follow God's commandments and the Holy Spirit which is given by the Messiah Yeshua. The Holy Spirit will not tell you to disobey God's commandments.

Proverbs 3:1-7 NKJV says,

My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Keep God's laws. They will help you in life and give you peace. Live by the truths from God and trust in God. Do not live by your own understanding or think you are wiser than God. Instead, deeply respect God and do not do evil.

Psalms 119:1-6 NKJV says,

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments.

Seek God and walk in His commandments. Be diligent so that you will not be ashamed. Shaul says in 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed."

Stay faithful to God even though the world works on our hearts and minds. (Allow God into the things of life.)

It has been my experience that we need to self-correct our thinking so that we are always ready to do what is right. James 1:21-23 NKJV says, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." It is God's commandments that will save you. James 2:18-20

NKJV says, "But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" The devil believes in God and is going to the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10 NKJV says, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone." Do not listen to those who would entice you into not following God. Remember, they are accursed, so do not go to the lake of fire with them.

Life comes through God and His word and not through worldly thinking. So, we need to keep our heart in the right place. Proverbs 4:23 NKJV says, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." God's commandments give us understanding (see Deuteronomy 4:6). Give God's commandments the attention they deserve, they are good doctrine. God's law is good doctrine. Proverbs 4:1-2 NKJV says, "Give attention to know understanding; for I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law." Satisfied is the person who trusts in God and has hope in Him. We can have satisfaction and hope in life through our God.

Jeremiah 17:7-10 says,
 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.
 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its
 roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be
 green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from
 yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately
 wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind,
 even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his
 doings."

You can have hope in God because He is merciful and good and wants us to follow Him. He will forgive you for your sin. So, change and make every effort to follow our God. Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV says, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

Lamentations 3:22-24 NKJV says, "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, therefore I hope in Him!" We have a great hope because we have a great God who wants us to succeed and keep His commandments. When we fail, we can ask for forgiveness. Psalms 103:11-13 NKJV says, "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him." If you deeply respect God and want to do what is right, God will forgive you of your sin. Keep forging forward toward God.

God gave us His commandments so that we could do what is just and good. We are to always be humble toward God's commandments, we are to be humble towards God's good law. Micah 6:8 NKJV says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

God has good things for us. Will we accept them, or will we live by intentions or false ideals? We must take care of the things of life while doing what we need to stay in God's light. Accept God's wisdom and instructions in the Bible. Allow God to lead you instead of worldly ways. Do not be deluded by the philosophies and ideals of mere people. Life seemingly leads us. Doing things God's way are the instructions we need for life that ensures us we are headed in the right direction. Stay faithful to God even though the world works on our hearts and minds. Allow God into all we do and make up your mind you will be faithful to God.

Torah Study

Emor means, "say." This portion begins by saying that the Cohanim (priests) were not to make themselves unclean by touching the dead unless it was a close relative. They are also not to do rituals that the pagans did like cutting gashes in their skin. They are to be holy for God. The Cohanim are also not to marry a divorced woman, a prostitute, or a woman who is not a virgin. The daughter of a Cohanim is to be pure. The Cohanim are consecrated and anointed with oil.

God's leaders are consecrated to God and are to be shown honor. Giving them honor gives honor to God. Shaul (Paul) said that leaders are to be given double honor (see 1 Timothy 5:17-18). No descendant of Aaron who has a defect should be allowed near the veil. No one who is unclean is to come near the holy things until he does what is necessary to be clean again.

No outsider or servant is to eat holy food (that is for the priests). If eaten accidentally the person is to restore what is eaten plus one-fifth. Free will offerings should have no blemish or any type of defect. God has sanctified Israel to be their God. They are to keep Shabbat, Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Shavuot, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. They should not reap to the corners of their fields. The details and dates are then given for each feast.

The Bible says that the lights that God created are there so we can know when we are to meet with God. Genesis 1:14 says they are for signs and seasons. Seasons is the Hebrew word *mo'edim* (*mo'edim* means meetings). I remember asking during one of my teachings why we are to know when the Jewish months start (the ancient new moon is when the moon reappears). A smart lady immediately said that it is, so we know when God's feasts are.

They were to use pure oil for the menorah, and it was not to go out. They were to make bread for the tabernacle and the Cohanim were to eat it there. Those that blaspheme the name of the Lord or murder another man were to be put to death and those that cause injury were to make restitution. The portion concludes with them stoning a man who was blaspheming the Lord.

I should mention that the Jewish Bible says that blaspheming God is to say His name. That is not how the Hebrew reads and is a false interpretation of what is written. Using God's name as a curse word or cursing God using His name is wrong. However you refer to God, you should do that with reverence.

This portion has laws about contact with the dead, how to keep hair (don't copy the pagans and their weird behaviors), marriage of the priests, those who are qualified to offer sacrifices, who can eat from the donations, a mikvah (which means immersion) requirement to be clean, animal sacrifices, the Lord's name and not to use it blasphemously, the Lord's feasts, leaving crops for the poor, fasting on Yom Kippur, living in booths on Sukkot (was for Israel), using clear oil for the Mishkan lamps, and restitution.

We have already learned about the importance of not committing lashon harah from past portions of the Torah. Lashon harah is evil speaking. Shaul talks about saying good things in Philippians 4 and Ya'akov (James) talks about how the tongue can be used for good or evil. Each portion of the Torah gives us important background on things talked about in the New Testament portion. Without this background people tend to apply the New Testament scriptures mindlessly.

The New Testament portion comes from the Old Testament portion.

Both Yeshua and Shaul used the Old Testament for their teachings. Should we keep God's feasts? Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts." They are God's feasts so why wouldn't we? It amazes me that people observe man-made feasts, holidays, and celebrations; but when it comes to God's feasts, they say they are not for them. They are in essence saying to God that His appointed times (His *mo'edim*) are not important.

If we are not to observe God's feasts as some say (which seems ludicrous), then why are we supposed to look forward to observing them in the new heaven and earth? Isaiah 66:22-23 NKJV, "'For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the LORD, 'So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,' says the LORD." New Moons celebrate the calendar year set up by God and they are used to know when to celebrate God's feasts, so this refers to keeping God's calendar and God's feasts. The

Sabbath refers to God's weekly feast which is from our Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset.

Some laws like keeping God's feasts are easily applied, other laws can be applied appropriately (like making restitution), and others can't be done. For example, we can't always enforce the death penalties from the Bible because our country defines how and when that is to be done. We should not be an evil doer in the country we live in. Our country allows for restitution for damages; that is something the Bible tells us to do also.

I have heard people say things like we cannot observe God's feasts in Jerusalem anymore so we cannot keep them. That is just ridiculous! They say these things because they do not want to do what God says. They will say that is not true; they want to do what God says, but the next sentence out of their mouth tells us where their heart is. They are resisting God and not us. Who can't rest on Shabbat? Yeshua said that we can worship God wherever we are now. John 4:21NKJV says, "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.'"

We can keep God's feasts wherever we are. That is what early believers in Yeshua did. Also, the Old Testament portion made allowances for those who lived far away from Jerusalem. People just make up excuses not to follow God. Just because they do not follow God, you do not have to follow their bad example. We should stop fighting God and try to do what He tells us to do. Drop your man-made philosophy of life with its man-made doctrine and start doing what the Bible says. The Bible tells us to help others and the poor. My niece's husband once asked me why Christians hate the poor. What a poor example Christians have been.

Be a good example and do things God's way.

We should do things God's way even though we may not understand why. Perhaps limiting contact with the dead could help reduce problems related to disease. We saw disease being spread a number of years back during an Ebola breakout because of customs regarding the dead. Also, perhaps it was the custom of idol worshippers in ancient times to do specific things related to idol worship with their hair. We probably should be careful not to emulate any practice associated with idol worship or any of the despicable things that unbelievers do. Unbelievers will do weird things with their hair, in how they dress, and with their body. Do not be tempted to follow their ridiculous behaviors.

Should we still fast on Yom Kippur (the day of forgiveness of sins)? Yes, because Yochanan (John) said we all sin and need to confess our sin in 1 John. Since he is Jewish, he probably is not only referring to our daily acts of repentance and confession (which we should be doing), but also to a general introspection and confession of sins

on Yom Kippur (that he most certainly would have been thinking of). A general confession of sins may reveal other sins we need to repent of.

Should we live in booths on Sukkot? This command is directed at Israel and perhaps has more to do with the Sinai covenant. Not all commands are pertinent for the Messianic believer although we can surely participate if we so choose. Living in booths should remind us of God's care for Israel and for His care for us.

For Messianic believers, Sukkot also should remind us that God does indeed care for His people and that we are to seek His help at the throne of His favor as it says in Hebrews 4:16. In Temple worship, only the high priest could enter the holiest place, but that is not true for the Messianic believer. There is a change of perspective in the Brit Chadashah (the New Testament portion); the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) lives in us so we each have direct access to God.

Also, we should be ever mindful to help the poor and if we damage anything, we should make restitution. It has always been understood that the "eye for an eye" in this portion did not mean a literal eye for an eye, but that restitution should be made to others we have harmed.

The counting of the Omer at this time before Shavuot perhaps reminds us of the anticipation of God's provision as Israel was harvesting their food at this time. He not only provides for us physically but gave us the law on Shavuot (Pentecost) and the Holy Spirit on Shavuot. The Book of Jubilees says that Noah celebrated Shavuot for God saving him from the flood.

I include thanks during this time of the counting of the Omer for all God provides, and for the gift of His law (the Torah which means instruction) and the gift of the Holy Spirit. I do this at our evening meal.

The Torah repeats itself a lot. Repetition is often used for emphasis in the Bible. We should always want more of God and be willing listeners and doers. There is a difference between Greek education and Jewish studies. The Greeks learn to improve themselves, but the ancient believers in God learned so they could be dedicated to God and learn God's instructions and values for life. It is not a division of focus as some say, our focus should be on living right and following God, on being dedicated to God. Learning a trade is important, but learning how to live life extends into every area of our life. Some wonder why there are so many successful Jews. It is because they learn godly values for life that they can apply to all of life.

The Haftarah for Emor is Ezekiel 44:15- 31. The Cohanim who are the descendants of Tzadok who took care of God's house when Israel went astray are to perform the service of the sanctuary. They are to wear linen; nothing that will make them sweat. They are to trim their hair, marry a virgin or the widow of a Cohen (priest), teach the

people what is clean or unclean, and judge the people. They are to keep God's Shabbats and festivals holy and not come in contact with a dead person unless they are a close relative. They belong to God, they are to live off the offerings, and they are not to eat anything that dies naturally or is torn to death.

This Haftarah portion reiterates some of the commands for the Cohanim given in Leviticus. They were to teach the people God's commands. God is to be their inheritance. We as believers in Messiah have literally inherited God through the Holy Spirit and have the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) living in us. Rabbi Shaul (Paul) says that the Ruach HaKodesh is proof of our inheritance in Ephesians 1:13-14. This verse is sometimes taken out of the context of the Bible. Of course, we must be faithful and live like a true child of God. If we disown God and do not live like a child of God, He will disown us. 2 Timothy 2:12 NKJV says, "**If we endure**, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us." So, stay faithful to God's instructions for life.

Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts. (We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)

A Cohen is only permitted to be ritually unclean for the death of close relatives. This also teaches us that we are to mourn for the dead. Leviticus 21:1-3

The conditions for a Cohen for marriage. Leviticus 21:7.

Those who serve in the Temple are to be consecrated. Leviticus 21:8.

The High Priest is commanded to not enter a dwelling of a dead person. Leviticus 21:11.

The High Priest can only marry a virgin and not a widow. Leviticus 21:13-14.

A Cohen who has some disfiguration cannot serve at the Temple. Leviticus 21:17-21.

A Cohen with a temporary blemish is to serve or enter the Temple. Leviticus 21:21, 23.

A Cohen who is unclean cannot serve or participate at the Temple. Leviticus 22:2-9.

A non-Cohen is to eat of the holy things for the Cohen. Leviticus 22:10.

A priest's daughter who married a non-Cohen cannot eat of the holy things. Leviticus 22:12.

They were not to mix regular food with the holy food. Leviticus 22:15.

Blemished offerings are not accepted; only non-blemished offerings are acceptable. Leviticus 22:20-22, 24-25.

They could not offer an animal and its young on the same day. Leviticus 22:18.

Offerings should be at least 8 days old. Leviticus 22:27.

Yĕhōvâh's name is not to be profaned. According to Strong's Dictionary, it means wounded. We are not to cause injury to God's name. The context refers to saying something negative about God or cursing using God's name. Some say we cannot say God's true name. That is not what it says. If you respect someone, you use their name properly and with respect. You would not call someone you respect, "The Name" as some do for God. So, by never saying God's true name, they wound God's name. Leviticus 22:32.

God's Feasts, Leviticus 23:1-2 NKJV.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts."

God's Sabbath, Leviticus 23:2 NKJV.

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

The Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread, Leviticus 23:4-8 NKJV.

These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it."

The Feast of Firstfruits, Leviticus 23:9-14 NKJV.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath

the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

The Feast of Shavuot, Leviticus 23:15-21 NKJV.

And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD. And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD. Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering. The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Leave the corners of your field for the poor and stranger and do not glean your harvest. Leviticus 23:22 NKJV.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

The Feast of Yom Teruah, Rosh Hashanah, Leviticus 23:23-25

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, speak to the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD."

Yom Kippur, Leviticus 23:26-32 NKJV.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off

from his people. And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

The Feast of Sukkot and the Eighth Day, Leviticus 23:33-44.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, speak to the children of Israel, saying: The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it. These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD. Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

The Aaronic Blessing.

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God, which is pronounced, Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Will you also honor God's name?

In this portion we are commanded to not misuse God's name. So, some people call God Hashem which means "the name." They dishonor God's name by not using His name. When we honor someone, we use their name in an appropriate way. Do not be afraid to use God's real name.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאֹר יְהוָה פְּנֵיךָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְנֶךָ
 יֵשָׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵיךָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וַיִּשְׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹמִים

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.