



Message 5-5-18
Emor-Say
Leviticus 21:1-24:23
Ezekiel 44:15-31
Yochanan-John 3:27-36

Introduction

The beginning chapters of Emor deal with laws of the priesthood, including laws of purity and priestly contact with the dead, marital restrictions, bodily wholeness, and participating in the sacrifices as food.

Leviticus 21:1-3

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: 'No one shall defile himself for a *dead* person among his people, ² except for his relatives who are nearest to him, his mother and his father and his son and his daughter and his brother, ³ also for **his virgin sister, who is near to him because she has had no husband; for her he may defile himself.** (NAU)

Interesting tidbit concerning who the priests may mourn. The reason I say this is because Yeshua's mother, Miriam, was a virgin when she gave birth to her son. He was born into the tribe of Judah of the line of David, which would entitle Him to become the king of Israel one day, and He would become its king as the final one. Before that can happen, He first had to die to take away the sins of humankind. A sacrifice without sin was Yeshua who was born to a woman of Israel of the line of Judah, who carried Him impregnated by the Ruach HaKodesh, who carried the seed of the Father, and placed it within Miriam. Her son would be pure because He would not be conceived in the way of man but by the power of His Father. He would not be tainted by the sins of His mother because He would have His own blood supply, and His mother never had relations with a man before this.

In fact, it was because she became pregnant that her betrothed Joseph wanted to send her away, so she would not be killed for violating the Torah. An angel of the Lord came and told him to take Miriam as his wife, and the child she carried was the Son of God. It was obvious that Miriam had other children, or that Joseph already was a widower, and had children from that marriage. Whichever way you want to choose is fine. The other important fact here was that Yeshua would also be a priest after the way of Melchizedek, who Abraham gave a tithe to and who was a priest and king. In this way, Yeshua would not violate the calling of the kings through Judah, the priests through the tribe of Levi, and the line of Aaron. He would come as a priest and king before them entitling Him to sit on the throne, not only over Israel but also over the entire world. He would also be the High Priest who mediates the covenant between man and God, the Father. His mother was

pure, chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah. She would come to understand the path her son had to walk, would only be able to do it alone, and bring it to its logical conclusion – redemption by the shedding of His blood who would be the Kinsman Redeemer of all humankind because He is the Father of us all as the Creator on behalf of His Father.

Ezekiel 44:27-30

27 And on the day that he goes into the Holy Place, into the inner court, to minister in the Holy Place, he shall offer his sin offering, declares the Lord GOD. ²⁸ "This shall be their inheritance: I am their inheritance: and you shall give them no possession in Israel; I am their possession. ²⁹ They shall eat the grain offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering, and every devoted thing in Israel shall be theirs. ³⁰ And the first of all the first fruits of all kinds, and every offering of all kinds from all your offerings, shall belong to the priests. You shall also give to the priests the first of your dough, that a blessing may rest on your house. (ESV)

As the High Priest would only go into the Holy of Holies once a year on Yom Kippur to make atonement for all Israel, he first had to offer his sin offering to stand in for Israel. As Yeshua is the Redeemer for all Israel, so was the High Priest, a picture of what Yeshua would do. Yeshua was the sin offering, so He does not need to bring an animal sacrifice because His blood atonement brought the covenant to its fulfillment. The covenant still needs to play out in the physical world though it has been completed in the spiritual world. God called the tribe of Levi to serve Him, and in doing so, they would be fulfilling the inheritance God gave to them. Serving God would be their inheritance. They would not have a part of the land inheritance, but what higher calling is it to serve God and His Son?

Joshua 13:33 But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them. (ESV)

Nehemiah 10:37 and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor. (ESV)

The tithing system was to help the Levites to do the work of God as was their inheritance. The way the tithing system worked was no tithes went to support the Tabernacle or Temple. The half-shekel Temple tax took care of this as Yeshua shows us in Scripture. The people of Israel were to give ten percent to the Levites in the cities they lived in that were given to them throughout Israel by God. It was there they lived when they were not on duty. They were to teach Torah to the people. From the tithes the people gave them, they gave ten percent to the priests, and they in turn gave ten per cent to God. There was also a requirement that a portion of the people's tithes were to help the widows and orphans in alternating years, and in the other years, they were to take a portion of their tithes to go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Festivals, particularly Sukkot.

Many people begrudge God by not wanting to tithe. That is between them and God, and if they do not tithe but are part of a Messianic congregation, then they are not helping it to do the work of spreading the message of Messiah to their local communities. The Holy One of Israel has much to say about withholding tithes from those who serve Him. There are those who say only the Levites can have the tithes. For one thing, I am from the tribe of Levi, but I do not stand on that premise but do my best to live according to Torah. I am not perfect in my walk, but by the grace of God and my redemption from my sins by Yeshua, I do the best I can in my walk, and I do make mistakes. We all do, but our faith in Yeshua will carry us through. Salvation is not by the keeping of Torah, but it is the covenant that we are called to live.

John 3:27-36

27 Yochanan answered, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from Heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can confirm that I did not say I was the Messiah, but that I have been sent ahead of him. ²⁹ **The bridegroom is the one who has the bride**; but the bridegroom's friend, who stands and listens to him, is overjoyed at the sound of the bridegroom's voice. So, this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must become more important, while I become less important. ³¹ "He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth is from the earth and talks from an earthly point of view; he who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies about what he has actually seen and heard, yet no one accepts what he says! ³³ Whoever does accept what he says puts his seal on the fact that God is true, ³⁴ because the one whom God sent speaks God's words. For God does not give him the Spirit in limited degree- ³⁵ the Father loves the Son and has put everything in his hands. ³⁶ Whoever trusts in the Son has eternal life. But whoever disobeys the Son will not see that life but remains subject to God's wrath." (Joh 3:27 CJB)

This passage is about Yochanan or John the Immerser. He knew that he was sent to announce the coming of the Messiah. Some thought he was the Messiah, but he was not. He was the friend of the bridegroom, who went before Him announcing the Good News. His time was ending, and both he and Yeshua knew what was to come for both. John would go on to be beheaded, and Yeshua would bring salvation to the world, for as long as the Father desired it, through His death and resurrection. The day is coming when the bridegroom will come for His bride. Will you be ready, or will you hesitate? The choice is yours. All a congregational leader can do is to teach you what God lays on his or her heart about how Torah is to be lived out by one's faith in the Messiah. Walk His way, in His covenant, saved by the blood of the Lamb.

Torah Man says: "Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they just have to say something."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119. If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at student.support@jsi-edu.org for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.

