

Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT EMOR

1ST MAY, 2026

COME & LEARN

THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]

1 – God tells the priests to stay especially holy and avoid contact with the dead, except for close family. A priest has special rules for mourning, marriage, and daily conduct because of his role in serving God. The priest must protect his holiness and not desecrate his sacred position.

2 – More laws for priests are shared, especially about who may serve and what can make them unfit for sacred duty. It also sets rules for priestly offerings and says that only priests and their households may eat certain holy foods under the right conditions. People who handle holy things must do so with care.

3 – God tells Moses to instruct the people that sacrifices must be brought without defects. Animals with serious blemishes are not acceptable for the altar, because an offering to God must be complete and worthy. The section ends by stressing that God's name must be treated with holiness, and the people must keep His commandments.

4 – God lays out the special holy times of the year, starting with Shabbat and then the major festivals. The people are told how to mark Passover, the Omer count, and Shavuot, with each one bringing the community back to God in a structured way.

4 (cont.) – The people must also leave part of the harvest for the poor and the stranger.

5 – Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are introduced. Rosh Hashanah is a day of shofar blast and rest, while Yom Kippur is a day of fasting and repentance. Both days call the people to step back from ordinary life and focus on God.

6 – Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret are described. The people are told to live in booths for seven days so they remember how God protected them in the wilderness. It is a time of joy, harvest, and gathering together before God.

7 – God gives laws for the menorah and the showbread in the sanctuary. Then a story of a man who blasphemes God's name, and is stoned by the community. The section ends with the idea that punishments should match the crime committed.

PARSHAT EMOR

Parshat Emor includes many Jewish holidays. Below are the introductory verses to each.

LEVITICUS 23:1-3

וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

דַּבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם מוֹעֲדֵי ה' אֲשֶׁר־תִּקְרְאוּ אֹתָם מִקְרָאֵי קֹדֶשׁ אֵלֶּה הֵם מוֹעֲדֵי:
שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲשֶׂה מְלָאכָה וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבַּת שַׁבְּתוֹן מִקְרָא־קֹדֶשׁ כָּל־מְלָאכָה לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ שַׁבַּת הוּא לֹה
בְּכָל מוֹשְׁבֹתֵיכֶם:

GOD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to the Israelite people and say to them:

These are My fixed times, the fixed times of GOD, that you shall proclaim as sacred occasions. On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there shall be a sabbath of complete rest, a sacred occasion. You shall do no work; it shall be a sabbath of GOD throughout your settlements.

LEVITICUS 23:5-6

בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן בְּאַרְבַּעָה עָשָׂר לַחֹדֶשׁ בֵּין הָעֶרְבִים פֶּסַח לֹה:
וּבַחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה חַג הַמִּצּוֹת לֹה שִׁבְעַת יָמִים מִצּוֹת תֹּאכַל

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, there shall be a passover offering to GOD,
 and on the fifteenth day of that month GOD's Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread for seven days.

LEVITICUS 23:15-16

וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם מִמַּחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת מִיּוֹם הַבִּיאְכֶם אֶת־עֹמֶר הַתְּנוּפָה שִׁבְעַת שַׁבְּתוֹת תְּמִימֹת תִּהְיֶינָה:
עַד מַמְחֲרַת הַשַּׁבָּת הַשְּׁבִיעִית תִּסְפְּרוּ חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם מִנְחָה חֹדְשָׁה לֹה:

And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of elevation offering—the day after the sabbath—you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete:
 you must count until the day after the seventh week—fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to GOD.

LEVITICUS 23:24

דַּבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם שַׁבְּתוֹן זִכְרוֹן תְּרוּעָה מִקְרָא־קֹדֶשׁ:
 Speak to the Israelite people thus: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts.

LEVITICUS 23:27

אֲךָ בַעֲשׂוֹר לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי הַזֶּה יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הוּא מִקְרָא־קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם וְעִנִּיתֶם אֶת־נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם
וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם אֶשָׁה לֹה:

Mark, the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: you shall practice self-denial, and you shall bring an offering by fire to GOD;

LEVITICUS 23:34

דַּבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר בַּחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי הַזֶּה חַג הַסֻּכּוֹת שִׁבְעַת יָמִים לִיהוָה:
 Say to the Israelite people: On the fifteenth day of this seventh month there shall be the Feast of Booths to GOD, [to last] seven days