

EMOR (SPEAK) LEV 21:1-24, EZEK 44:75-31, LUKE 11:30-44

Tonight is about the Levitical priesthood, it is important to remember that everything on earth is a picture or shadow of the perfect system in "New Jerusalem" as long as earth exists the Levitical priesthood and sacrifices will still exist, remember "**until heaven and earth pass away**" (**Matt 5:17**) the Torah's commands will still exist, Levites will be atoning for sin committed in ignorance (**Heb 9:7**) until earth's destruction. Keep in mind that the Levitical system covered sin in ignorance only, and it dealt with direct rebellion with punishment. Yeshua's Malki-tzedek heavenly priesthood does not replace the Levitical system but rather the lesser is a shadow of the greater, if Yeshua were on earth, he would not be an earthly Cohen (**Heb 8:4**). Also I believe the reason for discussing details about a priest in **Lev 21** then details of sacrifices in **Lev 22** is because you get to chapter **23** and it is about all of **YHWH's** feast, so were studying what's acceptable to present to him on His feasts. This is also a foreshadow of what's going on in Heaven as all feasts have a heavenly fulfillment/meaning!

Lev 21:1-4 Adonai said to Moshe, "Speak to the cohanim, the sons of Aharon; tell them: 'No cohen is to make himself unclean for any of his people who dies, except for his close relatives — his mother, father, son, daughter and brother; he may also make himself unclean for his virgin sister who has never married and is therefore dependent on him. He may not make himself unclean, because he is a leader among his people; doing so would profane him.'

- **v1** A cohen may not make himself unclean (If you touch a corpse **Num 19:11-16**) unless it is for close family, notice not one mention of a wife!? Perhaps because earthly marriage is only a shadow of us (His Bride) being married to Him, which culminates in Heaven. And in New Jerusalem there is no marriage...

Luke 20:27-39 Some Tz'dukim, who say there is no resurrection, came to Yeshua and put to him a sh'eilah: "Rabbi, Moshe wrote for us that if a man dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife and have children to preserve the man's family line (**Deut 25:5-7**). Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife and died childless, then the second and third took her, and likewise all seven, but they all died without leaving children. Lastly, the woman also died. Yeshua said to them, "In this age, men and women marry; but those judged worthy of the age to come, and of resurrection from the dead, do not get married, because they can no longer die. Being children of the Resurrection, they are like angels; indeed, they are children of God." But even Moshe showed that the dead are raised; for in the passage about the bush, he calls Adonai 'the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya'akov (**Exo 3:6**).' Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living — to him all are alive." Some of the Torah-teachers answered, "Well spoken, Rabbi." For they no longer dared put to him a sh'eilah.

Back to the parsha...

Lev 21:5-9 Cohanim are not to make bald spots on their heads, mar the edges of their beards or cut gashes in their flesh (**Lev 19:27-28**). Rather, they are to be holy for their God and not profane the name of their God. For they are the ones who present Adonai with offerings made by fire, the bread of their God; therefore they must be holy. "A cohen is not to marry a woman who is a prostitute, who has been profaned or who has been divorced; because he is holy for his God. Rather, you are to set him apart as holy, because he offers the bread of your God; he is to be holy for you, because I, Adonai, who makes you holy, am holy. The daughter of a cohen who profanes herself by prostitution profanes her father; she is to be put to death by fire."

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- **v5** "Do not make bald spots or mar the edges" In ancient Canaan, this was a common practice among



"sun worshipers" to cut your hair like this...

This is still practiced amongst Catholics to this day! This commandment is for Cohen's only, but **Lev 19:27-28** says it is for all Israel. Also this does not instruct us to grow "payot" (curly side burns) as modern day pharisaic Judaism prescribes. All of these practices listed above are talked about in the Tanakh, and seem to be a part of pagan worship which the house of Israel eventually took part in...

Jer 48:35-37 *"Moreover," says Adonai, "in Mo'av I will put an end to anyone sacrificing on a high place or offering incense to his gods." This is why my heart is moaning for Mo'av like funeral flutes, why my heart moans for the men of Kir-Heres like funeral flutes; for the wealth they produced has vanished. Every head has been shaved bald, every beard has been clipped short, gashes are on every hand, sackcloth around every waist.*

This was done as worship for "Ba'al Hadad" or Tammuz; it is interesting to think that today the people that celebrate his holidays, easter and christmass are catholics and christians...

Back to the parsha, the next five verses seem to be for the Cohen Gadol or High Priest only...

Lev 21:10-15 *"The cohen who is ranked highest among his brothers, the one on whose head the anointing oil is poured and who is consecrated to put on the garments, is not to stop grooming his hair, tear his clothes, go in to where any dead body is or make himself unclean, even when his father or mother dies. He may not leave the sanctuary then or profane the sanctuary of his God, because the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am Adonai. " 'He is to marry a virgin; he may not marry a widow, divorcee, profaned woman or prostitute; but he must marry a virgin from among his own people and not disqualify his descendants among his people; because I am Adonai, who makes him holy.' "*

- **v10** "he is not to stop grooming his hair or tear his clothes" stems back to **Lev 10** and Aarons sons being consumed by fire...

Lev 10:6 *Then Moshe told Aharon and his sons El'azar and Itamar, "Don't unbind your hair or tear your clothes in mourning, so that you won't die and so that Adonai won't be angry with the entire community. Rather, let your kinsmen — the whole house of Isra'el — mourn, because of the destruction Adonai brought about with his fire.*

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If a Cohen did this, he was immediately disqualified; this is how Caiaphas (who bought the office) lost his title in **YHWH's** eyes...

Mark 14:60-64 *The cohen hagadol stood up in the front and asked Yeshua, "Have you nothing to say to the accusations these men are making?" But he remained silent and made no reply. Again the cohen hagadol questioned him: "Are you the Mashiach, Ben-HaM'vorakh?" "I AM," answered Yeshua. "Moreover, you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of HaG'vurah and coming on the clouds of heaven." At this, the cohen hagadol tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You heard him blaspheme! What is your decision?" And they all declared him guilty and subject to the death penalty.*

The Cohen Gadol differs from a Cohen in the rules regarding the dead, a cohen may see his immediate family, a Cohen Gadol has a higher set of rules and may not even see his closest relatives (In death).
With the mindset that the earthly Cohen Gadol is a shadow or picture of the Heavenly Cohen Gadol, Yeshua, it seems to me that this is the aim of the Levitical Priesthood, be perfect...

Mat 5:48 *Therefore, be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Also with that mindset (Earthly Cohen Gadol = Heavenly Cohen Gadol, Yeshua) you see shadows of how he must be born (of a virgin) (**Luke 1:34 & Mat 1:23**) and what is expected of His bride (Israel) to be a virgin, i.e. solely devoted to Him and no other "men" or "gods" which is fornication in the masters eyes!

2Cor 11:2 *For I am jealous for you with God's kind of jealousy; since I promised to present you as a pure virgin in marriage to your one husband, the Messiah;*

Everyone who is not presented as the bride of Messiah (Israel), is what??? Fornicating with the beast or with the whore of Babylon!!! So if we are mixing Messiah Yeshua and/or the Torah with man made religion or paganism of any kind we are guilty of fornication and not worthy to be the bride of the Lamb.
It seems that the final purpose of an earthly priesthood culminates in **Revelation...**

Rev 21:2-4 *Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "See! God's Sh'khinah is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them (Immanuel), will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away." (Rev 22:3)*

Finally we will serve as Cohen before Yeshua (Our Cohen Gadol) and YHWH, bringing praise to them. "**The old order has passed away**" This also describes the end of or 100% fulfillment of the Earthly Torah and Levitical system, as Paul described in Hebrews...

Heb 8:13 *By using the term, "new," he has made the first covenant "old"; and something being made old, something in the process of aging, is on its way to vanishing altogether.*

Perhaps the reasoning behind no Cohen being able to marry a divorcee...

Mat 5:32 *But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and that anyone who marries a divorcee commits adultery.*

Now back to the Parsha...

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Lev 21:16-24 Adonai said to Moshe, "Tell Aharon, 'None of your descendants who has a defect may approach to offer the bread of his God. No one with a defect may approach — no one blind, lame, with a mutilated face or a limb too long, a broken foot or a broken arm, a hunched back, stunted growth, a cataract in his eye, festering or running sores, or damaged testicles — no one descended from Aharon the cohen who has such a defect may approach to present the offerings for Adonai made by fire; he has a defect and is not to approach to offer the bread of his God. He may eat the bread of his God, both the especially holy and the holy; only he is not to go in to the curtain or approach the altar, because he has a defect — so that he will not profane my holy places, because I am Adonai, who makes them holy.' " Moshe said these things to Aharon, his sons and all the people of Isra'el.

In the past weeks, while in Leviticus we discovered that leprosy, most often was the side effect of sin or sinful words. Now I do not believe that every physical defect is a direct result of personal sin, but it most certainly is a result of living in a sinful world, and can be the result of generational sin/curses. So when **YHWH** gives you deliverance it can be of things that you are not aware of. I don't believe **YHWH** was being a bigot when he wont allow the cripples to partake in the Tabernacle, rather it was the physical manifestation of a spiritual condition... (**Mat 9:2-7 & Luk 1:77**) But when we repent and allow **YHWH** to work within us we are open to restoration or wholeness of body and spirit.

Heb 12:5-14 Also you have forgotten the counsel which speaks with you as sons: "My son, don't despise the discipline of Adonai or become despondent when he corrects you. For Adonai disciplines those he loves and whips everyone he accepts as a son." Regard your endurance as discipline; God is dealing with you as sons. For what son goes undisciplined by his father? All legitimate sons undergo discipline; so if you don't, you're a mamzer and not a son! Furthermore, we had physical fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them; how much more should we submit to our spiritual Father and live! For they disciplined us only for a short time and only as best they could; but he disciplines us in a way that provides genuine benefit to us and enables us to share in his holiness. Now, all discipline, while it is happening, does indeed seem painful, not enjoyable; but for those who have been trained by it, it later produces its peaceful fruit, which is righteousness. So, strengthen your drooping arms, and steady your tottering knees; and make a level path for your feet; so that what has been injured will not get wrenched out of joint but rather will be healed. Keep pursuing shalom with everyone and the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord.

HafTorah

Speaking of Ezekiel's Temple...

Ezek 44:15-31 " 'However, the cohanim, who are L'vi'im and descendants of Tzadok, who took care of my sanctuary when the people of Isra'el went astray from me — they are the ones who will approach me and serve me; it is they who will attend me and offer me the fat and the blood,' says Adonai Elohim. 'They will enter my sanctuary, approach my table to minister to me and perform my service. " 'Once they enter the gates of the inner courtyard, they are to wear linen clothing; they are not to wear any wool while serving at the gates of the inner courtyard or inside it. They are to wear linen turbans on their heads and linen underclothes on their bodies, and they are not to wear anything that makes them sweat. Before going out to the people in the outer courtyard, they are to remove the clothes in which they minister, lay them in the holy rooms, and put on other clothes; so that they won't transmit holiness to the people by means of their clothing. They are not to shave their heads or let their hair grow long, but must keep their hair carefully trimmed. No cohen is to drink wine when he enters the inner courtyard. They may not marry a widow or a divorcee but must marry virgins descended from the house of Isra'el or a widow whose deceased husband

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was a cohen. " 'They are to teach my people the difference between holy and common and enable them to distinguish between clean and unclean. They are to be judges in controversies, and they are to render decisions in keeping with my rulings. At all my designated festivals they are to keep my laws and regulations, and they are to keep my shabbats holy. They are not to come to any dead person, because this would make them unclean; however, for father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister who has had no husband they may make themselves unclean. After a cohen has been purified, he is to wait seven days. Then, on the day he enters the sanctuary, when he goes into the inner courtyard to minister in the sanctuary, he is to offer his sin offering,' says Adonai Elohim. " 'Their inheritance is to be this: I myself am their inheritance. You are not to grant them any possession in Isra'el — I myself am their possession. They are to eat the grain offerings, sin offerings and guilt offerings; and everything in Isra'el devoted [to God] will be theirs. The first of all the firstfruits of everything, and every voluntary contribution of everything, from all your offerings, will be for the cohanim. You are also to give the cohen the first of your dough, so that a blessing will rest on your house. The cohanim are not to eat anything, bird or animal, that dies naturally or is torn to death.

Brit haDeshah

Luke 11:30-44 *For just as Yonah became a sign to the people of Ninveh, so will the Son of Man be for this generation. The Queen of the South will appear at the Judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Shlomo, and what is here now is greater than Shlomo. The people of Ninveh will stand up at the Judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they turned to God from their sins when Yonah preached, and what is here now is greater than Yonah. "No one who has kindled a lamp hides it or places it under a bowl; rather, he puts it on a stand, so that those coming in may see its light. The lamp of your body is the eye. When you have a 'good eye,' [that is, when you are generous,] your whole body is full of light; but when you have an 'evil eye,' [when you are stingy,] your body is full of darkness. So take care that the light in you is not darkness! If, then, your whole body is filled with light, with no part dark, it will be wholly lighted, as when a brightly lit lamp shines on you." As Yeshua spoke, a Parush asked him to eat dinner with him; so he went in and took his place at the table; and the Parush was surprised that he didn't begin by doing n'tilat yadayim before the meal. However, the Lord said to him, "Now then, you P'rushim, you clean the outside of the cup and plate; but inside, you are full of robbery and wickedness. Fools! Didn't the One who made the outside make the inside too? Rather, give as alms what is inside, and then everything will be clean for you! "But woe to you P'rushim! You pay your tithes of mint and rue and every garden herb, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You have an obligation to do these things — but without disregarding the others! "Woe to you P'rushim, because you love the best seat in the synagogues and being greeted deferentially in the marketplaces! "Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it."*