



Lesson
Emor / "Say"
Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23
Ezekiel 44:15-31
Luke 11:1 – 12:59

GRAFTED IN FELLOWSHIP

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All scripture references are Hebraic Roots Bible (HRB) unless otherwise indicated.

My Notes:

Your Notes:

Historical Context:

- Ezekiel was a son of a priest
 - + Ezekiel 1:3 – coming the Word of YAHWEH existing, came to pass to Ezekiel, the son of Buzi, the priest, in the land of the Chaldeans, by the river Chebar. And there the hand of YAHWEH was on him.
- 597 BCE, Nebuchadnezzar extinguished a Judean revolt
 - + 11 years before destruction of Temple
 - + All the mighty men, royalty, etc. were carried to Babylon
 - + 2 Kings 24:14-16 – 14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the leaders, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; none remained except the poorest sort of the people of the land. 15 And he exiled Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his eunuchs, and the mighty ones of the land; he caused a captivity to go from Jerusalem to Babylon. 16 And all the men of valor were seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths a thousand; all were mighty men, warriors; and the king of Babylon brought them in a captivity to Babylon.
- Five years after captivity, YHWH gave Ezekiel a vision
 - + Commissioned as a Prophet
- The first 24 chapters of Ezekiel deal with pending doom of Jerusalem and exile of all the people
- After the destruction of the Temple, Ezekiel's prophecies turned to future hope and redemption to all of Israel
- Ezekiel foresaw:
 - + Resurrection of the dead
 - + Gather the exiles of Judah and Israel
 - + Reunite them under a Davidic king
 - + The Temple will be rebuilt
 - + YHWH's presence will return to Zion
- These prophecies provided the blueprints of the Temple and descriptions of the Priestly service
- The prophecies within Emor are dated to the month of Tevet in the year 585 BCE (less than a year after the Fall of Jerusalem)
 - + Ezekiel 33:21 – And it happened in the twelfth year, in the tenth month, on the fifth of the month of our exile, a fugitive out of Jerusalem came to me, saying, The

Summary of Haftarat Emor:

- YHVH calls all of Israel to live according to the laws of holiness
- He calls the priesthood to an even higher standard
 - +They serve as mediators between YHVH and man
 - + Leviticus 21:6 – they are holy to their Elohim, and they shall not pollute the name of their Elohim. For they offer the fire offerings of YAHWEH, bread of their Elohim, and they are holy.
- This portion contains laws of holiness for the priesthood
 - +Similar
 - +Identical
 - +But, these are for the Messianic-era priesthood
- Ezekiel lines up perfectly with the Torah Portion Emor (Lev 21:1 – 24:23), detailing the responsibilities of the priests
- Provides details for the restored Aaronic priesthood in the Messianic Temple
- Priests outside of the lineage of Zadok will not be permitted to perform the most sacred duties
- The priests can only wear linen garments while serving (can't wear the garment outside the Temple)
- Must keep their hair trimmed
- Cannot drink alcohol in the Temple
- Must marry only virgin Israelites or the widow of a priest
- They are responsible for teaching the Torah
- Must not be defiled by a dead body (except for close relatives)
- Grain and Sin Offerings belong to the priesthood (as well as the firstfruits)
- This portion provides us with a view of the Messianic Age, and how life will be lived
- Most importantly, it tells us that all of the Torah's laws will still be valid and binding in the Kingdom of Heaven!

In Depth:

Zadok

Ezekiel 44:15 – But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept the charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near to Me to minister to Me. And they shall stand before Me to bring near to Me the fat and the blood, declares Adonai YAHWEH.

- In the Messianic Age:-

- + YHVH will rebuild His Temple
- + Messiah will worship YHVH at the Temple
- + Messiah will enter through the eastern gate every Sabbath
- + Israel will offer up sacrifices
- + Levitical priesthood will again conduct services of the Temple
- Only the priests from the line of Zadok will be allowed to make the “most holy” sacrifices
- Zadok was High Priest after Abiathar in the days of David
 - + The first High Priest of Solomon’s Temple
- When all the other priests fell into idolatry and apostasy, the family of Zadok remained faithful to God
 - + Ezekiel 44:12 - because they attended to them before their idols, and became a stumbling-block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I have lifted up My hand against them, declares Adonai YAHWEH. And they shall bear their iniquity.
- YHVH does allow the non-Zadokite priests to:
 - + Be gate-keepers
 - + Keep charge of the Temple
 - + Slaughtering the burnt offerings
 - + Stand and minister before the people
- They are not allowed:
 - + To apply the blood to the altar
 - + Offer up the animal on the altar
 - + Ezekiel 44:11 - Yet they shall do the menial tasks in My sanctuary, overseers at the gates of the house, and serving in the house. They shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them, to serve them.
- They are demoted from full priestly privileges

Genealogy: Zadok

- 1 Chronicles 6:4-15 — 4 Eleazar fathered Phinehas; Phinehas fathered Abishua; 5 and Abishua fathered Bukki; and Bukki fathered Uzzi; 6 and Uzzi fathered Zerariah; and Zerariah fathered Meraioth; 7 Meraioth fathered Amariah; and Amariah fathered Ahitub; 8 and Ahitub fathered Zadok; and Zadok fathered Ahimaaz; 9 and Ahimaaz fathered Azariah; and Azariah fathered Johanan; 10 and Johanan fathered Azariah, he who acted in the priest's office in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem. 11 And Azariah fathered Amariah; and Amariah fathered Ahitub; 12 and Ahitub fathered Zadok; and Zadok fathered Shallum; 13 and Shallum fathered Hilkiyah; and Hilkiyah fathered Azariah; 14 and Azariah fathered Seraiah; and Seraiah fathered Jehozadak; 15 and Jehozadak went away when YAHWEH exiled Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Chronicles ignores the other priestly families
- Jehozadak’s son (Jeshua [Joshua]) was among the generation that returned to Judah under the decree of Cyrus
- Jeshua reinstated the sacrificial system and served a High priest of the Second Temple
 - + Ezra 3:2 — Then Yeshua the son of Jozadak stood up, and his brothers the

priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brothers, and built the altar of the Elohim of Israel in order to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Torah of Moses the man of The Elohim.

- **Nehemiah 12:10-11** – 10 And Jeshua fathered Joiakim, and Joiakim fathered Eliashib; and Eliashib fathered Joiada; 11 and Joiada fathered Jonathan; and Jonathan fathered Jaddua.
- **Jaddua (the last High Priest mentioned in the Bible) was the grandfather of Simon the Righteous (Talmudic resource)**
- Legend says that Simon the Righteous served during the time of Alexander the Great
- Antiochus and the Syrian-Greeks took control of the Temple, replacing the Zadokite High Priest in 172 BCE
- The Hashmoni (Hasmonean) family successfully rebelled against the Syrian-Greeks
- It is unknown if the Hasmoneans were from the Zadokite lineage
- Jewish tradition states they were; the Dead Sea sectarians did not believe they were Zadokites (were contemporary with the Hasmoneans)
- Hasmoneans controlled the priesthood until Roman times
- The Romans sold the office of High Priest to the highest bidder
 - + 29 High Priests from Aaron to Babylonian Exile (c. 1500 to 586 BCE)
 - + 18 after the Babylonian exile (515 BCE -)
 - + 10 During the Hasmonean Dynasty (- 36 BCE)
 - + 31 during the Herodian and Roman rule (36 BCE – 70 CE)
- Under both Hasmonean and Roman rule, the office was full of corruption and scandal
- During the Hasmonean rule, many priests withdrew from service in Temple and established their own sectarian community – Essenes (Dead Sea Scrolls)

The Priestly Garments:

Ezekiel 44:17 – And it shall be when they enter in the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments. And wool shall not come upon them while they minister in the gates of the inner court, and in the house.

- In the Messianic Age, men will perspire
- Linen garments only for the priests, no wool
- The linen garments are not to be worn outside the inner court
- How do the priests transmit holiness?
- Compare:

- + **Ezekiel 44:19 (linen garments)** – And when they go out into the outer court, to the outer court to the people, they shall put off their garments by which they ministered and lay them in the holy chambers. And they shall put on other garments, and they shall not sanctify the people with their own garments.
- + **Leviticus 6:18 (grain offering)** – Every male among the sons of Aaron shall eat it, a never ending statute throughout your generations from the fire offerings of YAHWEH. All that touches them shall be holy.
- + **Exodus 29:37 (altar)** – You shall make atonement seven days for the altar, and shall sanctify it; and the altar shall become most holy, all touching the altar becomes holy.
- + **Exodus 30:29 (Temple furnishings)** – And you shall sanctify them, and they shall become most holy; everything touching them shall become holy.
- If a common person touches a priest's garments, he becomes holy
- What does this mean? Torah does not explain how far this liability extends
- But there are dangers: Uzzah touching the Ark (death!)
- YHVH told Moses the High Priest's garments were to be made of wool and linen
- The common priests' garments were made of linen only
- Ezekiel's rule of "linen only" must only apply to the common priests
- According to Rambam, this rule contradicts the Torah's standard for even the ordinary priests.
- Rambam says the sash worn by the common priest (Exodus 28:40) was, like the high priest's, made of wool and linen.
- Rashi reconciles the problem by suggesting that this prohibition applies only to the linen garments worn by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement.
- In the ancient world, linen did not take dye
- All the linen garments in the Messianic Age will be white
- **Revelation 19:8** – And it was given to her that she be clothed in fine linen, pure and bright; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.

Shave and Haircut:

Ezekiel 44:20 – And they shall not shave their heads, and they shall not send forth long hair; trimming they shall trim their heads.

- In the Messianic Age, people's hair will grow and will need to be cut
- **Leviticus 10:6** – And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar, and to Ithamar, his sons, You shall not uncover your heads and you shall not tear your garments, that you may not die, and He be angry on all the congregation. As to your brothers, the whole house of Israel, they shall mourn the burning which YAHWEH has kindled.
- According to Ezekiel, priests must neither shave their heads nor let it grow unkempt
- But how long is too long? How often should they get a haircut?

- According to *b. Sanhedrin 22b*, "The king has his hair trimmed every day; the high priest, every Friday before Sabbath, and a common priest, once every thirty days."
- While the Temple was standing, if a priest went into service with long hair, it was worthy of death
- After the Temple destruction, rabbis permitted the priests to let their hair grow out
- Nazarite vows? The vow overrides the rule

Alcohol in the Temple

Ezekiel 44:21 – And every priest shall not drink wine when they enter into the inner court.

- Wine will be intoxicating in the Messianic Age
- Priests cannot drink wine while in service
- Leviticus 10:9 – You shall not drink wine and fermented drink, you nor your sons with you, as you go into the tabernacle of the congregation, and you shall not die; a never ending statute throughout your generations;

Marriage Standards

Ezekiel 44:22 – And they shall not take a widow or a divorcee, for wives for themselves, but they shall only take virgins of the seed of the house of Israel, or a widow who is the widow of a priest.

- People will get married in the Messianic Age
- This does not apply to the resurrected
 - + Mark 12:25 – For when they rise again from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels in Heaven.
- Mortal life will continue for mortal people
- Leviticus 21:7-8 – 7 They shall not take a woman who is a harlot, or polluted; nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for he is holy to his Elohim. 8 And you shall sanctify him, for he brings near the bread of your Elohim; he is holy to you; for I am holy, YAHWEH who is sanctifying you.
- Torah allows a priest to marry a widow
- Ezekiel's laws are stricter: can only marry a widow of a priest
- Leviticus 21:13-14 (for the High Priest) – And he shall take a wife in her virginity. 14 He shall not take a widow, or one divorced, or a polluted one, a harlot, but he shall take a virgin of his own people for a wife;
- According to Torah, the common priest can marry any widow
- The Talmud explains by saying the first half of Ezek 44:22 applies to the High Priest, and the second half applies to the common priests
- The marriage examples of the priests relates to YHVH and His relationship to His people
 - + YHVH compares His people to a bride

+ What kind of bride are we to be?

+ Ephesians 5:27 – that He might present it to Himself as the glorious Congregation, not having stain or wrinkle, or any such things, but that it be holy and without blemish.

+ When His people fell into idolatry, He compared them to a harlot and an unfaithful bride

+ Such a bride is inappropriate for the holiness of YHVH, and inappropriate for a priest

Teaching and Keeping Torah:

Ezekiel 44:24 – And in a dispute, they shall stand to judge, they shall judge it by My judgments. And they shall observe My Torah and My statutes in My appointed feasts, and they shall sanctify My Sabbaths .

- In the Messianic Era, people will still need to learn Torah.
- Does Ezekiel's prophecy contradict the prophecy that the knowledge of YHVH will be universal and no man will need to teach his neighbor?
- NO!
- During the Messianic Era, a higher, fuller revelation of YHVH will be available
- All people will know YHVH, but they will still need to study, learn, and grow in that knowledge
 - + Need to know the difference between holy and profane, clean and unclean
- There will still be judges to render decisions, determine halakah
- Originally, the Torah assigned the priests to teach Torah
 - + Leviticus 10:11 – and to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which YAHWEH has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.
- However, the priests failed to meet their obligation
 - + Ezek 22:26 – Her priests have violated My Torah and have profaned My holy things. They have not divided between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and clean they have not taught. And they have hidden their eyes from the sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.
- The Zadokite priesthood is just the opposite:
 - + They will teach Torah
 - + Judge cases
 - + Keep commandments, festivals and Sabbaths
 - + Teach holy vs profane, clean vs unclean

Corpse Contamination:

Ezekiel 44:25 – And he shall not come to a dead man, to defile himself; but for father, or for mother, or for a son, or for a daughter, for a brother, or for a sister who has not had a husband, they may defile themselves.

- In the Messianic Era, people will still die

- Isaiah also says people will live longer, and early deaths will be unusual
 - + Isaiah 65:20 – There shall not still be an infant of days, or an old man that has not filled his days. For the youth shall die the son of a hundred years, but the sinner the son of a hundred years shall be accursed.
- With death, come ritual laws of impurity contracted through a corpse
- The Torah forbids priests from attending funerals or escorting the dead
 - + Makes them ritually impure
 - + Temporarily disqualifies them from fulfilling their sacred duties
- Torah allows a priest to become unclean from a corpse only for a close relative
 - + Leviticus 21:2-3 – 2 But for his relative who is near to him, for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother, 3 and for his sister, the virgin, who is near to him, who has not been with a man, for her he may be defiled.
- All other cases are forbidden
- The High Priest cannot come into contact with a corpse even in the case of a close relative
 - + Leviticus 21:11 - nor shall he come near any dead person; he shall not defile himself for his father or for his mother;
- Today, Orthodox Jews still abide by these laws
- After contact with a corpse, a seven-day purification process is initiated
 - + Sprinkling of water from the red heifer
- Ezekiel also says a priest must bring a sin offering after the seven days
 - + Ezekiel 44: 27 – And in the day he goes into the sanctuary, to the inner court, to minister in the sanctuary, he shall bring his sin offering, declares Adonai YAHWEH.
- A Nazarite is also required to bring a sin offering

Priests' Inheritance:

Ezekiel 44: 28 – And it shall be to them for an inheritance; I am their inheritance; and you shall not give them possession in Israel; I am their possession.

- People will still need to work during the Messianic Era
- Land ownership and passing on property to descendants
- The priesthood will also need support
- Since the priests are landless, they have no means of supporting themselves
 - + Numbers 18:20 – And YAHWEH said to Aaron, You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel.
 - + See also Numbers 18:8-20
- In the Messianic Era, a tract of land is to be set aside

around Jerusalem containing houses for the priests and Levites

+ Ezekiel 48:11-12 – 11 for the priests who are sanctified, of the sons of Zadok, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the sons of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray. 12 And the heave offering shall be theirs, from the heave offering of the land, the holiest of the holy places, by the border of the Levites.

- The priestly allotments are not an inheritance since the lands are not agricultural
- These are cities scattered throughout the land, reserved for the Levites
- The priests received the following:
 - + Grain offerings,
 - + Sin offerings,
 - + Guilt offerings,
 - + Waved portion of the peace offering,
 - + Terumah portions of the first fruits from the field, vineyard and orchard
 - + First pressings of the oil
 - + First wine of the vat
 - + Firstborn males of animals
- This practice will continue in the Messianic Era

+ Ezekiel 44:29-30 – 29 They shall eat the food offering and 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, and every one of the heave offerings of all, of all your heave offerings, shall be for the priests. And you shall give to the priest the first of your dough, to cause a blessing to rest on your house.

Blessing of the House:

Ezekiel 44:30 – And the first of all the first-fruits of all, and every one of the heave offerings of all, of all your heave offerings, shall be for the priests. And you shall give to the priest the first of your dough, to cause a blessing to rest on your house.

- In the Messianic Era, women who observe the commandment of separating the first portion of bread will bring YHVH's blessing upon their home
- In the language of the Talmud, a man's wife is his "house"
- In Hebrew, the words for house and household are identical
- A man without a wife is houseless, because he has no household (no family)
- If he has a wife, then he can enjoy YHVH's blessing: YHVH causes a blessing to rest on his house
- The rabbis believed Ezek 44:30 to mean that YHVH's blessing rests on man because of his wife
- No wife, no "house," no blessing

Nevelah:

Ezekiel 44:31 – The priests shall not eat of every corpse and torn thing, of birds, or of beasts.

- Animals will still die in the Messianic Era (natural deaths and by other means)
- People will still eat meat
- The Torah forbids the eating of meat from an animal that has died by any means other than ritual slaughter
- If the animal died by injury, wounds or natural causes, it is called nevelah
 - + **Exodus 22:31** – And you shall be holy men to Me. And you shall not eat flesh torn in pieces; you shall throw it to the dogs.
 - + **Leviticus 22:8 (from Parahat Emor)** – he shall not eat a dead body or torn thing, for it is unclean; I am YAHWEH.
- Priest will eat the meat from the offerings slaughtered in the Temple
- The Apostles also forbids eating nevelah
 - + **Acts 15:20** – but to write to them to hold back from the pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and blood.

Resources used:

- [First Fruits of Zion, Torah Club Volume 3, Voice of the Prophets](#)
- http://www.ask.com/wiki/List_of_High_Priests_of_Israel