

Parashah 31 Tidbit
Emor, אמר, To Speak or Say
Vayikra 21:1 – 24:23
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Vayiqra 21:1-24

Today's Parashah is called Emor, אמר or Amar, אמר, means, *to say, saying, said, spoke, told, uttered, he commanded, ordered, he said in his heart, thought*, he caused to say, induced to say, he avouched.

This Parashah begins with a statement from Yahweh to Mosheh, commanding Mosheh to *speak*, אמר, to the Priests, the sons of Aharon. Yahweh says: the Priests shall **NOT** defile themselves, become unclean (*Tame, טמא, unsuitable to be the manifest image of Yahweh here on earth*) by coming in contact with a dead body from among their people, unless it was a close relative such as a mother, father, son, daughter, brother and for a sister that was a virgin and had no husband.

Why was a Priest **NOT** to defile himself by touching a dead body? It is because, when a Priest touched a dead body, he was Tame, he was spiritually impure, defiled, especially in a ceremonial sense, he was unfit to serve or attend at the temple, he was unclean for seven days, and therefore, he could not perform his priestly duties in the temple. In any one community there may be many people dying in any given week or month, and if the Priests were to be in contact with all of them, then there could possibly be no Priests to take care of the daily duties of the Priesthood, and the daily sacrifices that were to be offered on the altar, for if this Commandment were not followed, **THEN**, all the priests of the village or town, **could** all be defiled at the same time. Therefore, by keeping it to close relatives only, Yahweh ensures that all of the spiritual needs of the whole community, are taken care of, by always having a Priest on duty that has not been defiled and become *Tame*, spiritually unclean, and still showing His incredible compassion for the Priest who has lost a family member.

As difficult as it may be, to think about how repugnant a dead body with its rotting flesh might be, it is nevertheless, a metaphor for our sinful nature. That is why Yahweh does **NOT** want us to relax any of His standards, **IF** we want to be in an intimate relationship with Him, for He is Holy, and wants all of us, to be Holy also, and this is one of the conditions of being Holy as He is Holy. Now, as you know, in the world that we live in today, we are surrounded and even bombarded by Sin, people constantly transgressions of the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life. On TV, in the news, in our Judicial system, in the world's ways, of accepting and even applauding homosexuality, transgenderism, inter generational sex, and much more. In this type of environment, it is really easy for anyone to let their guard down and forget how their transgressions of the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life cause our heavenly Father to regard them, as being unfit to be in His divine presence.

As an example, I want you to consider the life of heavy smoker or the lazy homeowner who fails to maintain his pet's litter box. After long-term **exposure** to the foul-smelling tobacco smoke, the typical smoker becomes oblivious to the odour fouling his home, his car, and his clothing. This is also true of the lazy Pet owner, because, after lengthy periods of exposure to the excessive bodily waste of his cute, furry companion, a complacent pet lover can and most likely will become used to the strong ammonia

smell, that assault on his senses on a daily basis. In time, however, the offensive smell seems to disappear from their nostrils altogether.

Such is the manner of our transgressions of the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, our Sins, **IF** we are not willing to heed the **strong** warnings that can only be found in the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, or by someone who knows the Torah, someone that is filled with the Torah's wisdom, like the apostle Paul. Without constant contact with Elohim and His Words of Life, we **ALL** risk becoming used to—and even comfortable with—our defiled manners, and sadly, we risk getting used to being separated from Yahweh Elohim. If any of us reach this point, then we are in grave danger. The author of the Book of Hebrews, who most likely, is the apostle Paul, writes, As difficult as it may be, to consider the repugnancy of rotting flesh, a potent metaphor for our sinful nature, is called for, to warn us of the dangers of relaxing our standards within the context of our relationship with Elohim, the purest of all beings. Since we are always surrounded and bombarded by Sin, by transgressions of the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, it is way too easy for us, to let our guard down, and forget how our transgressions cause our Creator to regard us as unfit to be in His divine presence.

Consider what I mentioned above about the heavy smoker or the lazy homeowner who get accustomed to the foul odour that surrounds them. Because, after long-term exposure to the excessive malodorous assault on their senses, is a metaphor for a person getting accustomed to transgressing the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, they get use to sinning.

Such is the manner of our Sins, if we are not willing to heed the strong warnings from someone wise like the apostle Paul. Without constant contact with Elohim and His Words of Life, we risk becoming used to—and even comfortable with—our defiled manner, and sadly, get used to being separated from our Elohim. Anyone that reaches that point, is in grave danger. As I mentioned above, the author of the Book of Hebrews, writes, *How shall we escape IF we neglect so great a Salvation? (Hebrews 2:3; see Joshua 23:11-16; Deuteronomy 4:9)*. Later, he adds, *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living Elohim*" (Hebrews 3:12; see II Samuel 12:10; Isaiah 59:2). After reading these verses on your own time, you will get a deeper understanding as to why, Yahweh wants us to be Tahor, clean and holy as He is Holy

The story of King David and Bathsheba comes to mind, as a tragic example of the potential dangers of spiritual complacency (II Samuel 11—12). David was a righteous man—a man after Elohim's own heart—and deeply loved by Elohim, as we see in, *I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22; Psalm 17:8*. He was not prone to practice transgressing the Words of the Torah of Yahweh which we are told he loved, but, he grew complacent—perhaps too self-assured—and committed a terrible transgression against Uriah, indeed, a Sin against Elohim (II Samuel 12:9). Moreover, he remained unaware of the stench of his offence, until Nathan the prophet, pointed it out to him (II Samuel 12:7). *Psalm 51* reflects David's shame and frustration upon recognizing his defiled state? Later, Paul adds, *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of YOU an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living Elohim (Hebrews 3:12; see II Samuel 12:10; Isaiah 59:2)*. We always have to have our guards up, for, on a daily basis, we are dealing with the greatest deceiver of all, satan.

Verse 5 tells us that the Priest was not to make any baldness upon their head. However as most of you know, contrary to this commandment, the Jesuit priests, who are a Catholic order of monks, have done exactly that, by shaving a circle of hair off the top of their head. This shaving of he head is called

Tonsure, and Tonsure is the practice of cutting or shaving some or all of the hair on the scalp, as a sign of religious devotion or humility. The term originates from the Latin word *tōnsūra*, meaning *clipping or shearing* and referred to a specific practice in medieval Catholicism, abandoned by papal order in 1972. We have to understand that our heavenly Father wants us all to be stones (individuals) and not bricks which are all alike and conform to false man made religious doctrines. We are also told, that the Priests, were **NOT** to shave off the corner of their beards. What does that mean? In ancient times and even in some cultures today, there is a practice of certain sects of the Middle East, making designs in their beards, which would be equivalent to wearing colours, to show that you belong to the Hell's Angels or any such group of today's society. In other words, they would shave their beards in such a way, as to show the world, that they followed this leader or that leader, and all their ways, their doctrines and their lifestyles. They followed the doctrines of those men and forsook the doctrine of Yahweh, the Torah of Yahweh. Paul taught us that that kind of thinking, that kind of activity or behaviour created **envy and strife**, among them. It is the same sort of thing that Paul speaks of in: *1 Corinthians 1:11 For it has been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now this I say, that every one of you says, I am of Paul; and I am of Apollos; and I am of Cephas; and I am of Messiah. 13 Is Messiah divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

Also the Priests are warned, not to make any cuttings in their own flesh. You might ask who and why would anyone do that anyway? Well there were people then and there are people even today, that do exactly that. At certain times of the year, these people celebrate the death of some of their past leaders, martyrs or heroes, and in these ceremonies they cut themselves and wear these scars as badges of honour to show, that they are followers of that particular leader and whatever doctrine he espoused. Scripture makes it very clear that the Priests were not to follow the doctrine of any man; they were to only follow and obey the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, the very same Torah that Yahweh gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, which of course, *IS* the doctrine of our heavenly Father, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.

Verse 6 tells us that they are not to defile themselves because they, the Priests, are the only ones that can minister in the sanctuary, therefore they shall be holy, as Yahweh is holy.

The Priests were not to marry a wife that was a harlot or unclean, such as the woman that had the issue of blood for twelve years, nor were they to take a divorced woman as a wife.

Why all of these prohibitions for the Priests? It is because they had the privilege of ministering to Yahweh, in the House of Yahweh, and for that privilege, they were to be an example, a light in the darkness that showed all of the people of Yisrael, and the world, for that matter, that one could be holy as Yahweh is holy. That was and is, Elohim's perfect plan. Now we have to decide for ourselves, how well the priests, Aharon's sons have followed Elohim's beautiful plan of sanctification, so that the sons of Aharon could be an example to all that came to the House of Elohim.

By Yahweh's Commandment, the people were to sanctify the Priests, because the priests were to be holy as Yahweh is holy, and they were the ones that offered the daily bread and sacrifices unto Yahweh.

If the daughter of the High Priest fornicated or committed adultery she was to be burned with fire and

not stoned. The High Priest, who is a shadow picture of Messiah and His holiness, was held to a higher standard, and he was expected to pass that standard down to his family, his children, so that they too, would learn to live by that higher standard. All priests were to take extra care in teaching their children the Ways of the Torah of Yahweh, for the boys, were future Priests and the daughters were more than likely going to become wives of Priests.

Now we come to the High Priests prohibitions. He on the other hand was not allowed to defile himself by touching a dead body, even if it was his mother or his father. Why is that? Does not the Torah command us to honour our fathers and mothers? As I said above, the High Priest is a picture of Yeshua, our sinless Lamb, and the High Priest was to maintain that state of sinlessness and cleanliness, he was to be Tahor, for all to see. *Matthew 10:37 He that loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

Luke 14:26 If any man come to Me, and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

The High Priest was not to uncover his head while he was doing the duties of his office, nor was he to rend his clothes, that is, the robes of the High Priest, the robes that were created for glory and for beauty as we learned in *Exodus 28:2 & 40*. These garments represent the covering of Yahweh, the Words of His Torah of Life, and we are not to tear out, nor remove any part of the Words of the Torah of Yahweh, for it is whole and complete, it is **ONE**, it is *echad*, in the same way that the Father and the Son are **ONE**. In *Matthew 26:65* we see that the High Priest of the day who had brought accusations against Messiah, did exactly what Yahweh had said **NOT TO DO**, when this High Priest **RENT** His Priestly garments in a public square after Messiah had said: *nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall you see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

Messiah came to show **US** and the **priesthood**, where they had gone **wrong**, and they crucified Him for it. The religious leaders crucified Him because they followed their own man made oral torah doctrine, rather than the Doctrine of the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, which of course **IS**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life.

While the High Priest was carrying out the duties of his office, he was not to go out of the sanctuary nor profane the sanctuary of Elohim, *because the crown of the anointing is upon him*. What does that mean? As I said, the High Priest is a picture of Messiah, and while he carries out the duties of his office, he was to focus one hundred percent of his attention on the Words and Commandments of the Father. He was to be fully dedicated to the purposes of the Father and nothing else. He was to be holy as Yahweh is holy, so that the people of Yisrael could see and learn to be holy as Yahweh is holy, and thereby many would be saved.

Verse 13 & 14 tells us that the High Priest was to take a virgin of his own people as his wife. This is a picture of Messiah coming back for **His spotless bride**, coming back to get *His people* to spend eternity with Him. Everything about the priesthood points to Messiah's ministry, here on earth, and the fact that He is coming back for His spotless bride.

I hope you can see how important all of these functions are, for if any of them are missed or omitted, it will paint a **distorted picture of what Messiah is coming back for**.

I am very sad to say however, that that is exactly what has happened in the so called Houses of the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov of today; they have been fed a pack of lies, and falsehoods for so long, they believe the lies of their forefathers mentioned in *Jeremiah 16:19*, and unfortunately, they now believe, that the lies that they have indeed inherited from their fathers, **ARE HOLY DOCTRINE**, and therefore, the picture that Yahweh has painted with the Words of Torah, about Messiah returning for His spotless bride, has been so badly distorted, that the so called Houses of the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, Catholicism, Christianity and Judaism, now believe something different than what Yahweh's written Torah teaches us. Our Christian brothers believe that Messiah is coming back for a Torahless bride, a bride that believes and teaches that the Words of Yahweh's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, have somehow been **done away with** in whole or in part, and our Jewish brothers believe and teach that **many parts, if not all of the Torah, has been changed**, and they also believe that Messiah has **NOT** come yet, and that He will only come some time in the future, which of course **IS NOT** what the Scriptures teach. Yahweh has told us in *Deuteronomy 4:1-2*, that **IF WE ADD OR TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM THE SCRIPTURES**, from the Words of His Torah of Life, then, **THAT IS SIN**.

In *1John 3:4* we are told that Sin **IS** transgression of the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, therefore, we can only conclude that a Torahless bride, **IS A HARLOT, a rebellious harlot**, and you can be assured of the Fact that Yahweh is **NOT coming back for a HARLOT**, He is **coming back** for His *Sinless, Spotless, Torah obedient Bride*, and, as I said before, according to Scripture *1John 3:4*, confirms to us that Sin **IS** transgression of the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, therefore Messiah is **coming back** for a bride that **KEEPS** and **OBEYS** all the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, for a Torah obedient bride, **IS** the definition of a **SINLESS BRIDE**, and the fact that He is **coming back** clearly indicates to us that He **HAS** been here already.

Verse 15 says that the High Priest is **NOT** to profane his seed. Which means he is not to masturbate, nor is he to have any sexual relationships with anyone but his bride, but since the seed is compared to the Word of Yahweh in Scripture, this is also telling us that the Priest **IS** not to pollute the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life, by adding or taking anything away from Yahweh's **PERFECT** Word.

Now we come to some *verses* that are **NOT politically correct**. *Verse 17* *Speak unto Aharon, saying, whosoever he be of your seed in their generations that has any blemish; do not let him approach to offer the bread of his Elohim. 18 For whatsoever man that has a blemish, he SHALL NOT approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that has a flat nose, or anything superfluous, 19 Or a man that is broken-footed, or broken-handed, 20 Or crooked back, or a dwarf, or that has a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or has his stones broken; 21 No man that has a blemish of the seed of Aharon the priest shall come near to offer the offerings of Yahweh made by fire: he has a blemish; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his Elohim. 22 He SHALL eat the bread of his Elohim, both of the most holy, and of the holy. 23 Only he shall NOT go in unto the veil, nor come nigh unto the altar, because he has a blemish; that he does NOT profane My sanctuaries: for I Yahweh do sanctify them.*

Can you imagine what would happen today, **IF** someone were told that they could not carry out any priestly duties simply because they were crippled, or deaf, or lame, or missing a limb, or have a withered limb, or partially blind, or a homosexual or transgender person, etc.? There would be a human outcry that could be heard all across this large country of ours, and in fact it would be heard all across the world.

What is Elohim teaching us here? Does He **NOT** love those so called misfits as much as he loves the rest of us? The answer of course **IS** a resounding *Yes*, He does love them, Elohim loves each and every one of us with a perfect love; from the blind, deaf, lame to the so called perfect specimen. Then why exclude those that have these types of blemishes to serve in the Holy or the most Holy place? It is because Yahweh is painting a picture of Himself as Holy and Complete, and He wants us to be the same as He is. These people who have these infirmities will all receive a new body, on the day of resurrection, as will all of us, but on this side of salvation, and eternal life, we have to live with what we have been given, and through this picture of only allowing those that are without blemish to come and serve at the altar of Yahweh, Yahweh is showing us the picture of perfection that our Messiah **IS**, and the perfection that we **will actually have with Him for eternity**. However that picture would be marred **IF** and **WHEN** we saw someone that has a deformity or that is not quite whole and complete, serving at Yahweh's altar.

Yahweh wants us to see perfection, so that we too **will strive to be perfect**, to be holy as He is Holy. This is His Grace in action, He is not punishing a few by excluding them from serving in an earthly Tabernacle, He is showing all of us, what it will be like serving in His heavenly and everlasting Tabernacle, that He will bring here on Earth, for we are to be a kingdom of Priests, and a holy nation, and we will all get to serve in His perfect temple, **YES**, even the lame and the broken of this world, for when we see Messiah, we will be like Him *1John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of Elohim, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.* Amein.

There are two stand-alone Aleph Tav in this chapter

*Verse 12 Neither shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane **Aleph Tav** the sanctuary of his Elohim; for the crown of the anointing oil of his Elohim is upon him: I am Yahweh.*

*Verse 21 No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of Yahweh made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread **Aleph Tav** of his Elohim.*

There are also another nine Aleph Tav that are attached to words with a Maqef and there are three words that contain both the Aleph and Tav letters within them. The number **nine** in Scripture represents the fruit of the Spirit of Elohim and the number three speaks of the death and resurrection of Messiah, His coming from death to life. Therefore, I believe that Yahweh is telling us through the use of these Aleph Tav, that **IF** we will learn to fully surrender our will to our heavenly Father's will, **THEN**, not only will we produce the fruit of the Spirit of Elohim, **BUT** that our surrendered spirit **WILL** lead us onto eternal life in the kingdom of Elohim where we will become the Bride of Messiah, to rule and reign with Him for eternity.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Shalom Alechem. Amein*