

Have a great shabbos!

Parshas Emor Questions and Answers

### QUESTIONS

1. When may a kohen become tameh for a dead person?
2. How does one honor a kohen?
3. What is a Kiddush Hashem?
4. What is a chillul Hashem?
5. Which yom tov is celebrated on 15th of Nissan?
6. What must we eat on Pesach?
7. What must we begin counting from the second day of pesach?
8. Which yom tov is celebrated after 49 days of the omer?
9. Which yom tov is celebrated on aleph tishrei?
10. What are some of the reasons that we blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah?
11. Which yom tov is celebrated on yud tishrei?
12. What are we not allowed to do on Yom Kippur?
13. Which yom tov is celebrated on 15th of Tishrei?
14. What mitzvot do we do specifically on Sukkot?
15. What is terumah?

### ANSWERS

1. For one of his seven close relatives, and a mes mitzvah (there is no one else to bury him).
2.
  - a. By letting him go first (e.g., by kriyas hatorah)
  - b. By asking him to lead the birkas hamazon.
3. Behaving in a way that makes others respect Hashem and the Torah.
4. Behaving in a way that makes others not respect Hashem and the Torah.
5. Pesach
6. Matzah
7. Sefirat Ha'omer
8. Shavuot
9. Rosh Hashanah
10.
  - a. The shofar acts like an alarm clock to wake us up to do teshuvah.
  - b. The shofar is usually made from a ram's horn. By blowing a ram's horn, we beg Hashem to remember Akeidat Yitzchak.
11. Yom Kippur
12. Eat, drink, wash for pleasure, wear leather shoes, and shmear on oil.
13. Sukkot
14. Sitting in a Sukkah, taking the arba minim (four species – lulav, esrog, hadassim, and aravot), and a special mitzvah to have simchah (to be happy).
15. The part of our crops that we give to a kohen.

1. **Which male descendants of Aharon are exempt from the prohibition against contacting a dead body?**  
21:1 - *Challalim* -- those disqualified from the priesthood because they are descended from a relationship forbidden to a *kohen*.
2. **Does a *kohen* have an option regarding becoming ritually defiled when his unmarried sister passes away?**  
21:3 - No, he is required to do so.
3. **How does one honor a *kohen*?**  
21:8 - He is first in all matters of holiness. For example, a *kohen* reads from the Torah first, and is usually the one to lead the blessings before and after meals.
4. **How does the Torah restrict the *kohen gadol* with regard to mourning?**  
21:10-12 - He may not allow his hair to grow long, nor attend to his close relatives if they die, nor accompany a funeral procession.
5. **The Torah states in verse 22:3 that one who "approaches holy objects" while in a state of *tumah* (impurity) is penalized with excision. What does the Torah mean by "approaches"?**  
22:3 - Eats.
6. **What is the smallest piece of a corpse that is able to transmit *tumah*?**  
22:5 - A piece the size of an olive.
7. **Who in the household of a *kohen* may eat *terumah*?**  
22:11 - He, his wife, his sons, his unmarried daughters and his non-Jewish slaves.
8. **If the daughter of a *kohen* marries a "*zar*" she may no longer eat *terumah*. What is a *zar*?**  
22:12 - A non-*kohen*.
9. **What is the difference between a *neder* and a *nedavah*?**  
22:18 - A *neder* is an obligation upon a person; a *nedavah* is an obligation placed upon an object.
10. **May a person slaughter an animal and its father on the same day?**  
22:28 - Yes. The Torah only prohibits slaughtering an animal and its mother on the same day.
11. **How does the Torah define "profaning" the Name of Hashem?**  
22:32 - Willfully transgressing the commandments.
12. **Apart from Shabbos, how many days are there during the year about which the Torah says that work is forbidden?**  
23:7-36 - Seven.
13. **How big is an *omer*?**  
23:10 - One tenth of an *eipha*.
14. **On what day do we begin to "count the *omer*"?**  
23:15 - On the 16th of Nissan.
15. **Why do we begin counting the *omer* at night?**  
23:15 - The Torah requires counting seven complete weeks. If we begin counting in the daytime, the seven weeks would not be complete, because according to the Torah a day starts at nightfall.

16. **How does the *omer* differ from other *minchah* offerings?**  
23:16 - It was made from barley.
17. **The blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah is called a "*zichron teruah*" (sound of remembrance). For what is it a reminder?**  
23:24 - The *akeidat* (binding of) Yitzchak.
18. **What is unusual about the wood of the *etrog* tree?**  
23:40 - It has the same taste as the fruit.
19. **Who was the father of the blasphemer?**  
24:10 - The Egyptian killed by Moshe (*Shemot* 2:12).
20. **What is the penalty for intentionally wounding one's parent?**  
24:21 - Death.

## Questions on Parshas Emor to think about and discuss:

1. What is the theme of the parsha?
2. What other times of the year do we read in the Torah from Parshas Emor?
3. Why are the Kohanim singled out for special additional mitzvos as well as limitations?
4. Why is it that Kohanim with a moum, blemish, cannot do the avoda? Is this fair when they are not in control having a moum that they are born with?
5. The Torah lists twelve mumim and then says a statement that Rashi (Emor, 21:21) learns comes to include all other mumim. Why not simply say one statement that includes all blemishes? Why additionally specify twelve?
6. Why does the parsha of Moadim come at all in Sefer Vayikra that is focused on the Kohanim and korbonous (as the main parsha that discusses the korbonous and the moiadim is in Parshas Pinchos)?
7. Why in the middle of discussing the Moiadim (between Shavuous and Rosh Hashana) does the Torah add in pesukim that discuss the mitzva of Peah, Leket and Shikcha – things that have already been mentioned in Parshas Kedoshim?
8. Some people read from Parshas Emor every Shabbos – which part and why?
9. Why are the festivals known as “moadim”?
10. Why are all the names of the festivals mentioned with the exception of Shavuos?

## Ideas for answers:

1. The parsha is split into two main topics, with a few small topics following. Firstly it discusses the halochos involving the kohanim and korbonous, things that they cannot do like become tuma and moumim, blemishes. Then it goes on to list and discuss all the moiadim which is followed by the Menorah, Lechem Haponim and the Jew who blasphemes. How are all these connected? I heard from

- R' Joseph Pearlman that the theme here is kedusha – the kohanim being holy require perfection as do the korbans brought before Hashem. The moadim is holiness in time and then comes the Menorah that is holiness even during the weekday, as the menorah was lit everyday. This is spiritual. However, kedusha must even encompass the physical seen in the bread of the Lechem Haponim. The last parsha demonstrates to us the punishment of someone who leaves kedusha and blasphemes Hashem.
2. Since Parshas Emor discusses in depth the mo'adim, it is read on Pesach and Sukkos.
  3. A large part of Parshas Emor deals with Kohanim. These are the "elite" of Klal Yisroel. The greater a person is, the more is expected of them. A leader is chosen because he has qualities above the average person. He is given new higher levels of standards with additional bonuses but his movements are restricted from where he can go and exactly what he can do. The same is true of the Kohanim.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  6. R' Shimshon Refoel Hirsch explains the theme of Sefer Vayikra and how the mo'adim comes in. The sefer deals with all aspects of kedusha. Until Parshas Emor it deals with kedusha of mokom, space and place. With the parsha of the mo'adim it now follows on with discussing the kedusha of zman, time. The festivals are holier than weekday. The Ramban (23:2) answers that the festivals are mentioned here since these are **days** of special korbans.
  - 7.
  8. The parsha that discusses the Lechem HaPonim, showbread, since this was taken out each Shabbos and distributed to the Kohanim.
  9. The word "mo'adim" is related to the word "vaad" that means "an appointed time" when the Jewish people achieve extra closeness with Hashem, by the festivals as we remember the great miracles Hashem performed for the Jewish People.
  10. Each festival stands by itself as a special time. However, Shavuot is linked to the korban omer and is the fiftieth day from it and therefore is not named by itself. (Rabbeinu BeChai)

Thank you,  
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