

# Parshas EMOR

5776

20-21 May 2016 / 13 Iyar 5776

CANDLE LIGHTING THIS WEEK: 5.09PM  
EREV SHABBOS MINCHA THIS WEEK: 5.10PM  
SHABBOS MINCHA: 4.45PM  
SHABBOS ENDS: 5.59PM

SHABBOS CANDLE LIGHTING NEXT WEEK: 5.06PM

LATEST TIME FOR MORNING SHEMA THIS WEEK: 9.23AM  
EARLIEST TIME FOR EVENING SHEMA THIS WEEK: 5.55PM

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Ohr Somayach

## OVERVIEW

The kohanim are commanded to avoid contact with corpses in order to maintain a high standard of ritual purity. They may attend the funeral of only their seven closest relatives: father, mother, wife, son, daughter, brother, and unmarried sister. The kohen gadol (High Priest) may not attend the funeral of even his closest relatives. Certain marital restrictions are placed on the kohanim. The nation is required to honor the kohanim. The physical irregularities that invalidate a kohen from serving in the Temple are listed. Terumah, a produce tithing given to the kohanim, may be eaten only by kohanim and their household. An animal may be sacrificed in the Temple after it is eight days old and is free from any physical defects. The nation is commanded to sanctify the Name of G-d by insuring that their behavior is always exemplary, and by being prepared to surrender their lives rather than murder, engage in licentious relations or worship idols. The special characteristics of the holidays are described, and the nation is reminded not to do certain types of creative work during these holidays. New grain may not be eaten until the omer of barley is offered in the Temple. The Parsha explains the laws of preparing the oil for the menorah and baking the lechem hapanim in the Temple. A man blasphemes G-d and is executed as prescribed in the Torah.



## WE NEED A TORAH TO TEACH US HOW TO TREAT A HUMAN BEING

Parshas Emor contains the section of the Festivals. The section begins with mention of Shabbos, then with Pessach, Shavuos, Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur and Succos — the entire annual cycle of Festivals. The exclusive contents of Chapter 23, from beginning to end, deal with the Festivals. There is one exception — pasuk 22, following the laws of Shavuos. This pasuk jumps out at us, as totally out of place in the chapter: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not remove completely the corners of your field as you reap and you shall not gather the gleanings of your harvest; for the poor and the proselyte shall you leave them; I am Hashem, your G-d." [Vayikra 23:22]

These agricultural laws have apparently nothing to do with anything else mentioned in the entire chapter. All the commentaries are troubled by this thematic anomaly. Rashi quotes the teaching of Chazal: "This comes to tell us that a person who properly gives the agricultural portions of Leket, Shikchah, and Peah to the poor is treated by Scripture as if he built the Bais HaMikdash and offered therein sacrifices."

Rav Meir Simcha, in his classic commentary on Chumash (Meshech Chochma) offers a different interpretation. Rav Meir Simcha focuses on the fact that this reference to the portions left for the poor appears immediately after the mention of the holiday of Shavuos. Rav Meir Simcha says that this underscores the idea that Matan Torah [the giving of the Torah, which occurred on Shavuos] was not just a revelation of the Chukkim [Divine Statutes which are non-intuitive], but rather also includes mitzvos regarding appropriate "natural" human responses, such as showing compassion to the poor and to strangers. It is obvious to us that we need a Torah to tell us which animals are Kosher and which are not, since that is something which we could never have figured out on our own. It is obvious to us that we need a Torah to tell us that shatnez [a mixture of linen and wool] is forbidden, since that is something which we could never have figured out on our own. However, this pasuk is emphasizing that we even need a Torah to tell us to take care of poor people. The only social laws that are absolutely guaranteed to last are a Divinely given set of laws.

Everything other than a Divinely inspired law, as logical as it may seem, will not last. This is why in the midst of the section on the Festivals — immediately after mention of the Holiday of Shavuos — the Torah tells us to take care of the poor. Societies can act laws and repeal laws. Only a divine law is eternal.

The Meshech Chochma wrote this before World War II, before the Nazis came to power. He wrote this before the Nazis promulgated laws regarding cruelty to animals, but not cruelty to Jews. They were exemplary in enacting laws protecting animals. But they had no problem exterminating people. How can a people worry about dogs before worrying about human beings? This concept is not really so foreign. Forms of it exist today. There are fringe environmentalists who put spikes in trees that maim and kill loggers, out of concern for the welfare of trees. These things can happen in the most advanced and refined societies. People can "change their minds" overnight.

We do not only need a Torah to tell us about Pessach and Shavuos and Kashrus and Shatnez, we also need a Torah to teach us how to treat a human being!

Rabbi Frand - [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org)

FOR ALL THOSE GOING BACK TO ERETZ YISROEL THIS COMING WEEK THERE WILL BE A MINCHA ON SHABBOS AT 4:55PM IN THE SMALL SHUL AT OHR SOMAYACH TO READ PARSHAS BEHAR

## BARMITZVAH

Mazeltoy to **Chaim Baddiel** on the occasion of his Barmitzvah. Mazeltoy to proud parents **Rabbi Dovid & Chami Baddiel**

Mazeltoy to **Shimshon Hurwitz** on the occasion of his Barmitzvah. Mazeltoy to proud parents **Rabbi David & Nicki Hurwitz** and grandparents **Dave & Louise Carless** and **Michael & Felicity Hurwitz**

## MAIN SHUL KIDDUSH

This week's Main Shul Kiddush is kindly sponsored by the **Rabbi Dovid & Chami Baddiel** in honour of **Chaim's Barmitzvah**.

## BABY GIRL

Mazeltoy to **R' Gershi & Shaina Rivka Schnerb** on the birth of a baby girl. Mazeltoy to grandparents **Rabbi Moshe & Jacqui Schnerb** and **Rabbi Shem & Sharon Boel**.

## SHABBOS AFTERNOON SHIUR

**RABBI AUERBACH**  
**COUNTING THE OMER BEFORE NIGHTFALL**

*Shabbos afternoon at 4.10pm*

## GRANDPARENTS

Mazeltoy to **Hillel & Brenda Braun** and **Kate Trump** on the birth of a grandson born to **Josh & Gavriella Braun** in Israel

## BABY BOY

Mazeltoy to **Jonathan & Dani Olitzki** on the birth of a baby boy. Mazeltoy to proud grandparents **Sam & Sue Michel**, **Cheryl Olitzki** and **Gerald & Elana Olitzki**. The Shalom Zachor will IY"H take place from 8:30pm at 4 Summerway, Glenhazel

## SEUDAH SHLISHIS GUEST SPEAKER

**RABBI BLAU**  
USING THE INTERNET PRODUCTIVELY  
MINCHA 4:45PM

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

Binyomin Kramer  
Batya Rus Maraney

*Happy Birthday!*

## YORTZEITS THIS WEEK

- **Stanley Suttner** for his late mother
- **David Osrin** for his late mother
- **Barry Levitt** for his late mother
- **Denise Ofer** for her late mother
- **Frank Solomon** for his late mother
- **Mary Kropman** for her late father

## OHR SOMAYACH & OHR CHODOSH

Join together with

SHAAREI CHAIM  
TORAS CHAIM KOLLEL  
YESHIVAS MESHECH CHOCHMOH

# LAG B'OMER 5776

🔥 Bonfire & Music!! **Maariv**  
🔥 Hot-dogs on sale!! **6.00pm**

**Wednesday 25 May**  
— **From 6.15pm!** —

**IN THE MOFFSON'S GARDEN**

