

## Regulations for the Priests (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 21–22

### Restrictions on Mourning and Marriage for Ordinary Priests

21:1 Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, Aaron’s sons, and say to them, ‘One must not make himself unclean for a dead person among his *own* people,

2 except for his direct relative closest to him: his mother and his father, and his son and his daughter, and his brother,

3 and for his sister, a virgin, *who is* closest to him, who has not had a husband—for her he may defile himself.

4 He must not make himself unclean *as* a kinsman by marriage, defiling himself.

5 “ ‘And they shall not shave bald patches on their head, and they shall not shave off the corner of their beard, and they shall not make a cut in their body.

6 They shall be holy to their God, and they shall not profane the name of their God, because they are bringing near the offerings made by fire to Yahweh—their God’s food—and they shall be holy.

7 “ ‘They shall not marry a woman *who is* a prostitute and defiled, nor shall they marry a woman divorced from her husband, because each priest *is* holy for his God.

8 And you shall consecrate him, because he is bringing near your God’s food; he shall be holy to you, since I, Yahweh, who consecrates you, *am* holy.

9 “ ‘As for the daughter of any priest, if she is defiled by prostituting, she is disgracing her father—she shall be burned in the fire.

### Restrictions on Mourning and Marriage for the High Priest

10 “ ‘As for the priest *who is* higher than his brothers, on whose head the oil of anointment is poured and he was ordained to wear the garments, he shall not dishevel his head, and he shall not tear his garments.

11 And he shall not go near any dead person, nor shall he make himself unclean for his father or for his mother.

12 And he shall not go out from the sanctuary, and he shall not profane his God’s sanctuary, because the dedication of his God’s oil of anointment *is* on him; I *am* Yahweh.

13 “ ‘And he himself must take a wife in her virginity.

14 A widow or a divorced woman or a defiled *woman*, a prostitute—these he must not take; he shall take only a virgin from his people *as* wife.

15 And he shall not profane his offspring among his people, because I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates him.”

### Restrictions for Priests With Physical Defects

16 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

17 “Speak to Aaron, saying, ‘A man from your offspring throughout their generations, in whom is a physical defect, shall not come near to present your God’s food.

18 Indeed, any man in whom is a physical defect shall not come near: a blind man or lame or disfigured or deformed,

19 or a man in whom is a broken foot or a broken hand,

20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or a spot in his eye or a skin disorder or a skin eruption or a crushed testicle.

21 Any man from Aaron the priest’s offspring in whom is a physical defect shall not come near to present offerings made by fire to Yahweh; a physical defect *is* in him; he shall not come near to present his God’s food.

22 He may eat his God’s food, from the most holy things and from the holy things.

23 But he must not enter the curtain, and he must not come near to the altar, because a physical defect *is* in him, and he must not profane my sanctuary, because I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates them.”

24 Thus Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the Israelites.

### Restrictions on Eating Priestly Food

22:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Tell Aaron and his sons that they must deal respectfully with the Israelites’ votive offerings, and they must not profane my holy name, which they are consecrating to me; I *am* Yahweh.

3 “Say to them, ‘Throughout your generations, any man from any of your offspring who comes near the votive offerings that the Israelites consecrate to Yahweh with his uncleanness on him, that person shall be cut off from before me; I *am* Yahweh.

4 “ ‘Anyone from Aaron’s offspring, if he *is* afflicted with a skin disease or a fluid discharge, shall not eat in the sanctuary until he is clean; and the one who touches any unclean person or a man from whom an emission of semen goes out,

5 or a man who touches any swarmer that is unclean for him or *who touches* a person who is unclean for him due to whatever his uncleanness,

6 a person who touches such a thing shall be unclean until the evening, and he shall not eat from the votive offerings, except *when* he washes his body with water

7 and the sun sets, and he shall be clean; then afterward he may eat from the votive offerings, because it *is* his food.

8 He shall not eat a *naturally* dead body or a mangled carcass, so that he becomes unclean by it; I *am* Yahweh.

9 “ ‘And they shall keep my obligation, and they shall not incur guilt because of it, so that they die through it, because they have

profaned it; I *am* Yahweh who consecrates them.

### Relatives' Rights to Priestly Food

10 “No stranger shall eat *the* votive offering; nor shall a temporary resident with a priest or a hired worker eat *the* votive offering.

11 But a priest, if *with* his money he buys a person *as* his possession, that one may eat it, and the descendants of his house themselves may eat his food.

12 And a priest's daughter, when she marries a layman, she herself may not eat the votive offering.

13 But a priest's daughter, when she becomes a widow or divorced or there is no offspring for her, and she returns to her father's house *as in* her childhood, she may eat from her father's food, but no layman may eat it.

14 And if a man eats *the* votive offering unintentionally, then he shall add to it a fifth of it, and he shall give the votive offering to the priest.

15 And they shall not profane the Israelites' votive offerings that they present to Yahweh,

16 and so cause them, by their eating their votive offerings, to bear guilt requiring a guilt offering, because I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates them.”

### Laws Concerning Acceptable Sacrificial Animals

17 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

18 “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the Israelites, and say to them, ‘Anyone from the house of Israel or from the alien in Israel who presents his offering for any of their vows or for any of their freewill offerings that they present to Yahweh as a burnt offering,

19 *it must be* without defect to be acceptable for you: a male among the cattle, among the sheep, or among the goats.

20 You shall not present any *animal* in which *is* a physical defect, because it shall not be acceptable for you.

21 And if anyone brings a sacrifice of fellowship offerings for Yahweh to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the cattle or from the flock, it must be without defect to be acceptable; there must not be any physical defect in it.

22 *The blind or the injured or the maimed or the seeping or one with a skin disorder or one with a skin eruption*—these you shall not present to Yahweh, nor shall you give from them an offering made by fire on the altar for Yahweh.

23 As for an ox or sheep that is deformed or that is stunted, you may present it *as* a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted.

24 And you shall not present *anything* for Yahweh *with* bruised or shattered or torn or cut-off *testicles*, and you shall not sacrifice *such* in your land.

25 And you shall not present your God's food from any of these by the hand of a foreigner, because their deformity *is* in them; a physical defect *is* in them; they shall not be accepted for you.”

26 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

27 “When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, then it shall be under its mother *for* seven days, and from the eighth day and beyond it is acceptable as an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

28 And you shall not slaughter an ox or a sheep and its young on the same day.

29 And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Yahweh, you must sacrifice *it* to be acceptable for you.

30 It must be eaten on that day; you must not leave over *anything* from it until morning; I *am* Yahweh.

31 “Thus you shall keep my commands, and you shall do them; I *am* Yahweh.

32 “And you shall not profane my holy name, so that I may be consecrated in the midst of the Israelites; I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates you,

33 the one who brought you out from the land of Egypt to be as God for you; I *am* Yahweh.”

## The Seven Annual Feasts (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

### Leviticus 23

#### Introduction—The Sabbath

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘The festivals of Yahweh that you shall proclaim *are* holy assemblies; these *are* my appointed times.

3 “*For* six days work is to be done, and on the seventh day *shall be* a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy assembly; you shall not do any work; it *shall be* a Sabbath for Yahweh in all your dwellings.

4 “*These are* Yahweh's appointed times, holy assemblies, which you shall proclaim at their appointed time.

#### Spring Feast—The Passover (14<sup>th</sup> of First Month: Nisan)—Good Friday

5 In the first month, on the fourteenth of the month at the evening *is* Yahweh's Passover.

**Spring Feast—The Feast of Unleavened Bread (15<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> of First Month: Nisan)—Easter**

6 And on the fifteenth day of this month *is* Yahweh's Feast of Unleavened Bread; *for* seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

7 On the first day *there* shall be a holy assembly for you; you shall not do any regular work.

8 And you shall present an offering for Yahweh made by fire *for* seven days; on the seventh day *there shall be* a holy assembly; you shall not do any regular work.”

**Spring Feast—The Feasts of Firstfruits**

9 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘When you come to the land that I *am about* to give to you and you reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruit of your harvest to the priest.

11 And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh for your acceptance; the priest shall wave it on the day after the Sabbath.

12 And on the day of your waving the sheaf you shall offer a yearling male lamb without defect as a burnt offering to Yahweh.

13 And its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths of an *ephah* of finely milled flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire for Yahweh, an appeasing fragrance; and its libation *shall be* a fourth of a hin of wine.

14 And you shall not eat bread or roasted grain or ripe grain until this very same day, until you present your God's offering. *This must be* a lasting statute for your generations in all your dwellings.

**Spring Feast—The Feasts of Weeks—Pentecost**

15 “ ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day of your bringing the wave offering's sheaf—*there* shall be seven full weeks.

16 Until the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall count fifty days; then you shall present a new grain offering for Yahweh.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings for a wave offering two *loaves* of bread made with two-tenths of an *ephah* of finely milled flour; they must be baked with leaven—the firstfruits belonging to Yahweh.

18 And, in addition to the bread, you shall present seven yearling male lambs without defects and one young bull and two rams—they shall be a burnt offering for Yahweh with their grain offering and their libations, an offering made by fire, an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

19 And you shall offer one he-goat as a sin offering and two yearling male lambs as a sacrifice of fellowship offerings.

20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits *as* a wave offering before Yahweh; in addition to *the* two male lambs, they shall be holy for Yahweh for the priest.

21 And you shall make a proclamation on this very same day; it shall be a holy assembly for you; you shall not do any regular work; *this is* a lasting statute in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22 And when you reap the harvest of your land, you must not finish the edge of your field at your reaping, and you must not glean the remnants of your harvest—you shall leave them behind for the needy and for the alien; I *am* Yahweh your God.”

**Fall Feast—The Feast of Trumpets (1<sup>st</sup> of Seventh Month: Tishri)**

23 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘In the seventh month, on *the* first *day* of the month, you must have a rest period, a remembrance of *the* trumpet blast, a holy assembly.

25 You must not do any regular work, and you shall present an offering made by fire to Yahweh.”

**Fall Feast—The Day of Atonement (10<sup>th</sup> of Seventh Month: Tishri)**

26 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

27 “Surely the Day of Atonement *is* on the tenth *day* of the seventh month; it shall be a holy assembly for you, and you shall deny yourselves, and you shall present an offering made by fire to Yahweh.

28 And you must not do any regular work on this very same day, because it *is* the Day of Atonement to make atonement for you before Yahweh your God.

29 If *there is* any person who does not deny *himself* on this very same day, then he shall be cut off from his people.

30 As for any person who does any work on this very same day, I will exterminate that person from the midst of his people.

31 You must not do any work; *it is* a lasting statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 It *is* a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall deny yourselves on the ninth *day* of the month in the evening—from evening to evening you must observe your *extraordinary* Sabbath.”

**Fall Feast—The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (15<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> of Seventh Month: Tishri)**

33 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

34 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, this *shall be* the Feast of Booths *for* seven days for Yahweh.

35 On the first day *there shall be* a holy assembly; you must not do any regular work.

36 *For* seven days you must present an offering made by fire to Yahweh. On the eighth day it shall be a holy assembly for you, and

you shall present an offering made by fire to Yahweh; it *is* a celebration; you must not do any regular work.

37 “These *are* Yahweh’s festivals, which you must proclaim, holy assemblies to present an offering made by fire to Yahweh—burnt offering and grain offering, sacrifice and libations, each on its proper day—

38 besides Yahweh’s Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides your vows and besides all your freewill offerings that you give to Yahweh.

39 “Surely on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, at your gathering the land’s produce, you shall hold Yahweh’s festival for seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a rest period and on the eighth day a rest period.

40 And on the first day you shall take for yourselves the first fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees and branches of a leafy tree and of a brook’s poplar trees, and you shall rejoice before Yahweh your God *for* seven days.

41 And you must hold it *as* a festival for Yahweh *for* seven days in the year; *it shall be* a lasting statute throughout your generations; in the seventh month you must hold it.

42 You must live in the booths *for* seven days; all the natives in Israel must live in the booths,

43 so that your generations shall know that I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them from the land of Egypt; I *am* Yahweh your God.”

#### **Concluding Summary**

44 Thus Moses announced to the Israelites Yahweh’s appointed times.

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