

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 the LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: ‘No one shall defile himself for a *dead* person among his people,
 2 except for his relatives who are nearest to him, his mother and his father and his son and his daughter and his brother,
 3 also for his virgin sister, who is near to him because she has had no husband; for her he may defile himself.
 4 He shall not defile himself as a relative by marriage among his people, and so profane himself.
 5 They shall not make any baldness on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts in their flesh.
 6 They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they present the offerings by fire to the LORD, the food of their God; so they shall be holy.
 7 They shall not take a woman who is profaned by harlotry, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for he is holy to his God.
 8 You shall consecrate him, therefore, for he offers the food of your God; he shall be holy to you; for I the LORD, who sanctifies you, am holy.
 9 Also the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by harlotry, she profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.

Restrictions on Mourning and Marriage for the High Priest

10 ‘The priest who is the highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes;
 11 nor shall he approach any dead person, nor defile himself *even* for his father or his mother;
 12 nor shall he go out of the sanctuary nor profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am the LORD.
 13 He shall take a wife in her virginity.
 14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by harlotry, these he may not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people,
 15 so that he will not profane his offspring among his people; for I am the LORD who sanctifies him.”

Restrictions for Priests With Physical Defects

16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
 17 “Speak to Aaron, saying, ‘No man of your offspring throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to offer the food of his God.
 18 For no one who has a defect shall approach: a blind man, or a lame man, or he who has a disfigured *face*, or any deformed *limb*,
 19 or a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,
 20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or *one who has* a defect in his eye or eczema or scabs or crushed testicles.
 21 No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to come near to offer the LORD’s offerings by fire; *since* he has a defect, he shall not come near to offer the food of his God.
 22 He may eat the food of his God, *both* of the most holy and of the holy,
 23 only he shall not go in to the veil or come near the altar because he has a defect, so that he will not profane My sanctuaries. For I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”
 24 So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel.

Restrictions on Eating Priestly Food

22:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “Tell Aaron and his sons to be careful with the holy *gifts* of the sons of Israel, which they dedicate to Me, so as not to profane My holy name; I am the LORD.
 3 Say to them, ‘If any man among all your descendants throughout your generations approaches the holy *gifts* which the sons of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from before Me; I am the LORD.
 4 No man of the descendants of Aaron, who is a leper or who has a discharge, may eat of the holy *gifts* until he is clean. And if one touches anything made unclean by a corpse or if a man has a seminal emission,
 5 or if a man touches any teeming things by which he is made unclean, or any man by whom he is made unclean, whatever his uncleanness;
 6 a person who touches any such shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat of the holy *gifts* unless he has bathed his body in water.
 7 But when the sun sets, he will be clean, and afterward he shall eat of the holy *gifts*, for it is his food.
 8 He shall not eat *an animal* which dies or is torn *by beasts*, becoming unclean by it; I am the LORD.
 9 They shall therefore keep My charge, so that they will not bear sin because of it and die thereby because they profane it; I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

Relatives' Rights to Priestly Food

10 'No layman, however, is to eat the holy *gift*; a sojourner with the priest or a hired man shall not eat of the holy *gift*.

11 But if a priest buys a slave as *his* property with his money, that one may eat of it, and those who are born in his house may eat of his food.

12 If a priest's daughter is married to a layman, she shall not eat of the offering of the *gifts*.

13 But if a priest's daughter becomes a widow or divorced, and has no child and returns to her father's house as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's food; but no layman shall eat of it.

14 But if a man eats a holy *gift* unintentionally, then he shall add to it a fifth of it and shall give the holy *gift* to the priest.

15 They shall not profane the holy *gifts* of the sons of Israel which they offer to the LORD,

16 and so cause them to bear punishment for guilt by eating their holy *gifts*; for I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”

Laws Concerning Acceptable Sacrificial Animals

17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

18 “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the LORD for a burnt offering—

19 for you to be accepted—it *must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats.

20 Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you.

21 When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.

22 Those *that are* blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the LORD.

23 In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted *member*, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted.

24 Also anything *with its testicles* bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the LORD, or sacrifice in your land,

25 nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you.”

26 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

27 “When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be accepted as a sacrifice of an offering by fire to the LORD.

28 But, *whether* it is an ox or a sheep, you shall not kill *both* it and its young in one day.

29 When you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

30 It shall be eaten on the same day, you shall leave none of it until morning; I am the LORD.

31 So you shall keep My commandments, and do them; I am the LORD.

32 “You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be sanctified among the sons of Israel; I am the LORD who sanctifies you,

33 who brought you out from the land of Egypt, to be your God; I am the LORD.”

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

Leviticus 23

Introduction—The Sabbath

1 The LORD spoke again to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The LORD's appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy convocations— My appointed times are these:

3 ‘For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.

4 ‘These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them.

Spring Feast—The Passover (14th of First Month: Nisan)—Good Friday

5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD's Passover.

Spring Feast—The Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th–22nd of First Month: Nisan)—Easter

6 Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work.

8 But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work.”

Spring Feast—The Feasts of Firstfruits

9 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest.

11 He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb one year old without defect for a burnt offering to the LORD.

13 Its grain offering shall then be two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering by fire to the LORD *for* a soothing aroma, with its drink offering, a fourth of a hin of wine.

14 Until this same day, until you have brought in the offering of your God, you shall eat neither bread nor roasted grain nor new growth. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

Spring Feast—The Feasts of Weeks—Pentecost

15 ‘You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths.

16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.

17 You shall bring in from your dwelling places two *loaves* of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths *of an ephah*; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD.

18 Along with the bread you shall present seven one year old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

19 You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20 The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

22 ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the LORD your God.’”

Fall Feast—The Feast of Trumpets (1st of Seventh Month: Tishri)

23 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing *of trumpets*, a holy convocation.

25 You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.’”

Fall Feast—The Day of Atonement (10th of Seventh Month: Tishri)

26 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

27 “On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD.

28 You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God.

29 If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people.

30 As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

31 You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

32 It is to be a sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath.”

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

33 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

34 “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD.

35 On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind.

36 For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.

37 ‘These are the appointed times of the LORD which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the LORD— burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, *each* day’s matter on its own day—

38 besides *those of* the sabbaths of the LORD, and besides your gifts and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD.

39 ‘On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast

of the LORD for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.

40 Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

41 You shall thus celebrate it *as* a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It *shall be* a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths,

43 so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

Concluding Summary

44 So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times of the LORD.

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