

Emor Aliyah Summary

General Overview: This week's reading, *Emor*, discusses the laws which pertain to Kohanim (priests), and various laws which relate to sacrifices. These are followed by a lengthy discussion of the festivals. The portion concludes with the story of a blasphemer who was put to death.

First Aliyah: The *aliyah* discusses the Kohen's obligation to maintain a high level of ritual purity, and the women he may marry. An ordinary [Kohen](#) is prohibited to come in contact with a human corpse — except to attend the funerals of his next of kin — and may not marry a divorcee as well as some other women. The High Priest is not permitted to attend even family funerals, and is required to marry a virgin.

Second Aliyah: This section discusses bodily blemishes and ritual impurities which disqualify a Kohen from performing the Temple priestly duties. The *aliyah* then lays down the rules regarding who in the Kohen's household may eat *terumah*, the tithe from produce given to the [Kohanim](#).

Third Aliyah: Blemished animals are disqualified for sacrificial use. This *aliyah* also forbids the castration of animals, sacrificing animals before they are eight days old, and slaughtering a mother animal and her child on the same day. The *aliyah* concludes with the mitzvah of *kiddush Hashem*, sanctifying G-d's Name by giving one's life rather than transgressing certain cardinal sins.

Fourth Aliyah: This section begins a lengthy discussion about the Jewish holidays. After making brief mention of the Shabbat, the Torah talks about the holiday of Passover and the [mitzvah](#) of eating matzah. On the second day of this holiday, an "*omer*" barley offering is brought in the Temple. This is followed by a seven-week counting period that culminates with the holiday of Shavuot. After discussing the [Shavuot](#) Temple service, the [Torah](#) briefly interrupts the holiday discussion to mention the obligation, when harvesting fields, to leave certain gifts for the poor.

[Fifth Aliyah](#): The High Holidays are discussed. We are commanded to hear the *shofar* (ram's horn) on Rosh Hashanah, and to "afflict" ourselves on Yom Kippur.

[Sixth Aliyah](#): The autumn holiday of Sukkot is now introduced. During this seven-day holiday we are commanded to sit in outdoor booths, take the Four Species (citron, palm branch, myrtles, and willows), and rejoice before [G-d](#). The final holiday is Shemini Atzeret, a one-day holiday which immediately follows [Sukkot](#).

[Seventh Aliyah](#): We are instructed to use the purest of olive oils for the daily kindling of the Temple menorah, and to arrange twelve "showbreads" on the Temple Table every Shabbat. The Torah then tells the story of a Jewish man who was put to death for blaspheming G-d. The portion concludes with the penalties for committing murder, property damages, and personal injury.