

Parshas Emor

Why does the Torah seem to repeat itself with restating mitzvos that could have been or ought to have been covered earlier?

The Haftora from Yechezkiel teaches us about hope. And repeating the intricate details of the rebuilding of the second Beis Hamikdash.

We read from Parshas Emor on Sukkos (the first two days in Chutz L'aretz). The reading highlights the Jewish holidays, such as applies to now, "usfartem Lochem" you shall count (talking about sefiras Ha'omer). In chapter 24, the Kohanim are commanded to light the menorah. It seems that the juxtaposition of these two elements is a hint to the future (As stated in B'Haloscha- but also referenced as part of the commandments of Tezaveh- see Rashi) of the lighting of the Menora (which is performed on Chanuka) is part of the holidays in a way- which we observe.

The Haftorah follows what we read on Parshas Tezaveh, and thematically connects the role of keeping the Kohanim pure and loyal as part of the service to Hashem and for the future when the Beis Hamikdash will be rebuilt. This can perhaps connect Purim to the Parsha. Because we reference all the holidays, including an allusion to Menorah lighting, the Haftora from Yechezkiel was talking about the second Bais Hamikdash, which came after Galus Bavel, which ended with the Purim story and the subsequent call to the Jews to unit and rebuild the Beis Hamikdash.

From the Parsha we this as well. Our Chassidic Masters refer to Chanuka as a holiday that purifies the soul, whereas Purim is a holiday that purifies the physical body. The Kosis Lameor (crushing for lighting)

which is a parable for how we can be a shining light- that is through the hard crushing labor of purifying ourselves.

Our Chassidic sages explain this about Parshas Emor, especially as it is a reminder to us about all the times during the year with which we can connect to Hashem- both on the regular day, and on the special holy days.

We are reminded of the toil- with the commandment of Usfartem Lochem- the commandment to count the Omer in preparation of the giving of the Torah. But the work doesn't just happen for the 7 weeks between Pesach and Shavuos- it culminates with the giving of the Torah, and our service to Hashem throughout the year.

The listing of the Yomim Tovim is described by a parable from the Mar'eh Yechezkiel, who said the following: There was a king, prince, and entourage travelling through the desert. The prince was thirsty, and the king halted the entourage and asked the servants with him to dig a well. Once they reached water and the thirst of the prince was quenched, the prince asked his father why they didn't simply send someone ahead to bring water, which surely would have been quicker. The king responded, that although that seemed like the right thing to do, the king stated to the prince, that should he be on the road along in the future with no or different entourage, even if the sands of time close the well up, it will be much easier to dig the well again, and the king will leave a signpost for the future that therein lies a well.

The sprinkling of "signposts" by Hashem throughout the year is a reminder to re dig or unearth our wells of water to quench our thirst to Hashem.

Good Shabbos