

April 27, 2013 – Emor

This sidrah stresses the laws governing some separate, but important, things. First we looked at the requirement that any priest with any kind of defect must not offer sacrifices. We explored various reasons for this prohibition, from a type of respect for the perfection of the animals to be sacrificed to the possible inability of someone with a defect to offer the sacrifices exactly as God wanted them, thus incurring God's wrath, demonstrated several weeks ago in the killing of Nadab and Abihu.

Second, the portion states the prohibition against work on the Sabbath. So the rest of our discussion had to do with what the rabbis decided constituted work, and how the prohibition expanded over time, what the differences are among Orthodox, Conservative and Reform interpretations of how the evolving prohibitions affect us today.