

Parashat Emor (speak): What are eternal decrees and how are we to keep them?

Lev 23:15-21: Counting the Omer...an eternal decree.

Lev 24:8-9: The Shabbat...an eternal decree.

(Chumash commentary, bottom of page 691).

We can keep the Shabbat and the Moadim as eternal decrees only incompletely (no show bread or priesthood for the Shabbat). Even with the understanding that there will be a third temple, how can these decrees be “eternal” if there is a gap in time between temples?

Hebrews 4:14: High Priest in Heaven

Hebrews 8:5: A copy of the original

Exodus 25:40 See and make according to what you were shown on the mountain

Is it possible that in the Heavenly Court, the festivals are kept eternally? If so, how can we keep our obligation and fulfill our role in obedience?

Lev 24:10-16: The blasphemer (Chumash commentary, pp 692-3)

Refer back to the lesson on relationships in the teaching for Parashot Aharei and Kedoshim.

Our relationship with the Almighty defines our relationship to each other and how we obey Him, obey His eternal decrees, and submit to each other.

2 Tim 1:3-6 Paul (a prisoner in Rome) says he worships like his forbearers with a clean conscience. He also talks about giving a “S'mikhah” (ordination) to Timothy. How is this (or is it) connected to the “eternal decrees” as defined in Leviticus? How can Paul worship like his forbearers if he can't go to the temple?

2 Tim 1:13-14: “Follow the pattern...” Is their a pattern of holy behavior we should follow the same way that Moses followed the pattern of what he saw on the mountain to construct the Tabernacle of G-d? Is this related to the Almighty “dwelling among us”? Paul specifically references the Holy Spirit in verse 14. Is there a connection?

2 Tim 1:15-18 The faithful and the faithless

2 Tim 4:9-11

2 Tim 4:3-4 People will stop listening to the truth.

Can these be examples of those in the body of faith in modern times?

2 Tim 2:24-26 A slave to the Lord must not fight...

Is this an example of how we should “rebuke” our “opponents” (i.e. “the faithless”)?

Are there examples of this today?

*Traditional modern Judaism* believes that prayers and righteous deeds have taken the place of the temple sacrifices. *Traditional modern Christianity* believes that the crucifixion of Christ has done away with the sacrifices and the moadim and that they've been replaced by grace. Further, that the moadim have been replaced with traditional Christian holidays. However, if the moadim are as eternal as any other decree by the Almighty, how can this be so and what does *Traditional Messianic Judaism* believe? Are our acts of obedience as defined by the Bible and performed with a “clean conscience” as Paul said, “accounted to us as righteousness” in the same way as Abraham's faith and obedience? Is this what is really eternal?