

Torah Portion #31: Emor (אמור) "say"

Torah ~ Lev. 21:1-24:23 | Haftarah ~ Psalm 72:1-20; Ezek. 44:15-31 | Brit Chadashah ~ Matt. 25:31-46; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Helping the Poor

In this Torah Portion we have an overview of the Biblical calendar in *Leviticus 23*. God's calendar has one weekly and seven yearly Feast days called *moadim* (appointed times). Three of these Feasts days are Pilgrim Feasts where all heads of the household was required to come to the Temple and not come empty handed but to bring any offering. These offerings was used to fund many different things, including helping the poor. The Bible contains more than 2,000 verses about helping the needy. Money was the subject of 16 of the 38 parables that Yeshua spoke, and 1/6 of the entire Gospels.

Law's given by God to help the Poor

God gave a law in *Leviticus 19:9-10* that commended the Israelites to leave the corners of their fields uncut so the poor could glean for food. In *Exodus 23:10-11* we have the Sabbatical Year where the Lord gave the law to let your land lie fallow and that the poor can eat whatever grows of itself on the land.

Deuteronomy 15:1 continues with the subject of the Sabbatical Year when it says that "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts" NKJV.

In the Year of Jubilee the Lord commanded that all land be returned to its original owner in *Leviticus 25:8-34*. Then He commanded the Israelites to not charge interest on loans in *Leviticus 25:37*. These things was done to help the poor.

Individuals are to help the Poor

Proverbs 14:31 "Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors him." NLT

Heb. 13:16 "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ESV

Matthew 5:42 "Give to him who asks you, and from him who would borrow from you do not turn away." MEV

Tabitha, a believer in *Acts 9:36*, is a great example for us for "she was always doing good and helping the poor." NIV

The Church is to help the Poor

In *Deuteronomy 14:28-29* & *26:12*, the Lord gave a law for the Tabernacle that every third year the tithe will go to support the priest and Levites. But it was also used to support the poor such as the widow, orphan, and stranger.

Deut. 15:7 "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother" NKJV

As Paul was being sent out to preach the Gospel and plant churches the disciples had a request for him in *Galatians 2:10* where it says "They asked only that we would remember the poor, which I made every effort to do." HCSB

The Government is to help the Poor

Psalm 72:12-13 tells us how the kings of Israel was to govern concerning the poor and needy.

Jeremiah 22:16 speaks on how King Josiah governed Israel when it says "He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him. Is not this what it means to know Me? says the Lord." MEV

King Lemuel's mother gave him wise advice in *Proverbs 31:9* when she said "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy." KJV

Ezekiel 16:49 "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." NKJV

Matthew 25:31-46 tells us that Yeshua will one day judge all the nations based on their treatment of the poor.

In Closing - What happens when we help the poor?

Proverbs 22:9 "He who is generous is blessed, because he shares his food with the poor." CJB

Proverbs 19:17 "He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay what he has given." MEV

Luke 6:38 "If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return." CEV

Proverbs 21:13 "Whoever stops up his ears at the cry of the poor will himself cry, but not be answered." CJB

Proverbs 28:27 "He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses." NKJV