

Tell a story
Haftara Emor
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-05-06

Comments

Ezekiel 44:15-33

This week's haftara discusses the various laws that concern the Kohanim. The prophet Ezekiel is mentioned in this haftara, he prophesied about a service in the kohanim during the Third Temple. It would be rebuilt after the final redemption. He described the priestly vestments and their personal care. He told them who they could marry and who they were not allowed to marry. He talked to the kohanim about the purity requirements, this lets them know they can't be around a dead body. Unless it is a dead body that was part of their family. Lastly, the prophet discusses their calling as teachers and becoming spiritual leaders.

The prophet Ezekiel, tells the kohanim of G-d's word. That is, "You shall give them no possession in Israel; I am their possession." Unlike the other Jews that were part of different tribes, the Kohanim didn't receive a portion in the land of Israel. The kohanim get something else that the rest of the Jewish people didn't get. That was, they partook of the sacrifices. They also received various tithes. This haftara tells us that twenty-five years had passed since Ezekiel and the cream of the Jewish people were sent into exile. They were exiled in Babylon and fourteen years had passed since the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. The rest of the Jews were exiled from their homeland in Israel. The Jews felt rejected and hopeless, but on the evening of Yom Kippur an angel appeared in front of the prophet Ezekiel.

The angel gave Ezekiel an extensive tour and lesson in the structure of what the future Temple would look like. The angel included the most intricate of details about the future of the Temple. Ezekiel was to teach all of these laws to the Jewish people. G-d had a plan for the memory of the Temple. It was to invoke a feeling of shame and remorse for the Jewish people, due to all of their bad behavior in the past. That was what caused the destruction of G-d's homeland.

G-d also had once promised the Jews the rebuilding of the Temple. By giving the Jews this promise, He was reassuring them that He had not entirely rejected His people. All G-d wanted was for the Jews to return back to Him. Then they would gain the Temple again. They would also regain everything that had once accompanied the era of the Temple.