

Parshah Insights 2022
Parshah: Tazria/Metzora
(Leviticus 12-15)

Imagine...

- A community where God dwells tangibly in their midst
- Where levels of holiness and purity are established
- Where the spiritual light is GREAT
- Where sinful things are so clearly revealed ...
- ... that they are manifested on a person's skin

Tzaraat was NOT a Medical Condition

- Only visible skin was examined.
 - *Tzaraat* was not contagious.
 - No medical treatment was prescribed.
 - It could afflict clothing, furniture, and walls. (13:47-59 / 14:33-57)
 - Impurity depends upon the declaration of the *cohen*, not the condition of the skin. (13:8)
 - A person completely covered with leprosy was considered pure. (13:12-13)
 - After recovery, a sin offering was required. (ch.14)
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Leviticus 13:2-3

“... **skin of the flesh**...” (4x)

עור בשר

עור

(or)

“Skin”

אור

(or)

“Light”

Matthew 6:22

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light.”

“Tzaraat is not a physical illness requiring the attention of an ordinary doctor. Rather, it is a disease of the soul”.

∞ R' Zalman Sorotzkin

Spiritual Insights Into *Tzaraat*:

#1

Old “inflammations” are a potential site for *Tzaraat*.
(13:18-23)

(23) ... it is the scarring of the inflammation. The Kohen shall declare him clean.

#2

Old “burns” are a potential site for *Tzaraat*.
(13:24-28)

(24) If a person will have a burn from fire on his skin,
and the healed skin of the burn is ...

#3

Hidden *tzaraat* is still *tzaraat*...
(13:29-30)

Netek (נתק) of the scalp or beard

#4

... and is the most embarrassing kind!
(13:31-37)

(33) ...then he shall shave himself, but he shall not
shave the *netek*.

#5

Eczema is eczema. Baldness is baldness.
(13:38-44)

Bohak (בהק) – eczema (?)
(Keep calm and carry on.)

Proper Behavior for a *Metzora*:

Leviticus 13:45-46

The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, “Unclean, unclean.” He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Messiah - the *Metzora*:

b.Sanhedrin 98a

Hebrews 3:7-11

Therefore, as the holy spirit says, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put Me to the test and saw My works for forty years. Therefore, I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart. They have not known My ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’”

הלל

Discussion Questions:

- Read Leviticus 12:1-5. Why do you think the circumcision of a son reduces a mother’s time of impurity by half?
- Read Mark 13:1-2. What is the significance of these words of Yeshua in light of Leviticus 14:33-45?
- 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 identifies six kinds of people who are to be removed from a redeemed community. How does this passage connect to Leviticus 14:33-45?
- Discuss 2Corinthians 6:17 – 17:1. What applications can you make to your own life.

NOTES:

Exodus 4:6 Again, Adonai said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. [1st mention of *tzaraaf*]

Exodus 2:12 He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Deuteronomy 24:8-9 "Take care, in a case of leprous disease, to be very careful to do according to all that the Levitical priests shall direct you. As I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do. Remember what Adonai your God did to Miriam on the way as you came out of Egypt."

Psalms 34:13-15 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of Adonai are toward the righteous and His ears toward their cry.

2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1 "Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing, then I will welcome you, and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2 Kings 5:3 (+6) She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." [Lit. "*gather him from his leprosy.*"]

Mark 13:1-2 And as He came out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" And Yeshua said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

Psalms 95:7-8. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness.