

Sheepfold Gleanings

TAZRIA - SHE BEARS SEED

Leviticus 12:1 to 13:59

2 Kings 4:42 to 5:19


Matthew 8:1-4

Mark 1:40-45; 5:1-43

Review: With the teaching of the offerings and the office of the priesthood in Leviticus chapters 1 through 10, Yahweh began to introduce the teaching of clean and unclean, holy and unholy through the food laws in Leviticus 11. If the temple of Yahweh resides in us, we are accountable to keep it clean. We are to eat clean foods, abhor the unclean and not eat any fat or blood. Uncleanness will contaminate our bodies and pollute the dwelling place of Yahweh. It is not a salvation issue but a heart issue - His principles over our preference. What we put in our bodies both reflects and affects our mindset. *Uncleanness comes from within.* If our hearts are unclean we need to make things right before Yahweh and bear much *seed*, otherwise the condition of our spiritual walk and relationship with God will remain unchanged and become stagnant. The sin of dishonor separates us from Yahweh. If we continue to disobey Him, then we walk in deception and self-righteousness, and will incur the *fruit* of our choice, which is uncleanness.

Eating clean foods without fat or blood blesses us physically. In the same way, Yahweh's instruction of what causes benefit or causes harm to our bodies is not only for our physical health but includes our spirituality, which is a reflection of our hearts.

Jerusalem's Fall Explained

 **Ezekiel 33:23-26** "Then the word of Yahweh came to me, saying: 'Son of man, they who inhabit those ruins in the land of Israel are saying, Abraham was only one, and he inherited the land. But we are many; the land has been given to us as a possession.' Therefore say to them, 'Thus says Yahweh: You eat meat with blood, you lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood. Should you then possess the land? You rely on your sword, you commit abominations, and you defile one another's wives. Should you then possess the land?'"

The history of the children of Israel is a lesson for us today. We are not to repeat the mistakes our ancestors made. Their lives are prophetic examples that teach us the walk of redemption through obedience versus being in rebellion toward Yahweh and His promised gift of an abundant life-*style*. It all starts in our *hearts* first, as this is the walk of faith and holiness.

If there are any contaminants in us, Yahweh is faithful to expose in our hearts and minds to what the root causes are. Contamination can enter through our eyes by what we look at, through our thoughts and speech, or by associations and what we attracted ourselves to. The Holy Place in

the tabernacle is symbolic of our mind, while the Most Holy Place symbolizes our heart. And a man thinks in both places. Yahweh showed us how to approach Him with a clean heart and mind in the first chapters of Leviticus. As we are a holy vessel prepared in the image of Yahweh and likened to a bride/priest in His Kingdom, we are also responsible for keeping a healthy home and dwelling place for the Spirit of Yahweh/*Ruach Ha Kodesh*. We are seen as righteous in the Father's sight, nevertheless we sometimes sow/do unrighteous things that bring a harvest of contamination. We are learning to walk in the redemption He has given us through progressive revelation. Learning to walk a redemptive lifestyle will keep our hearts and minds free of contamination. This study in *Tazria* looks at the spiritual side of what brings infections and molds into our body.

Purification after Childbirth

Leviticus 12

The birth of a child is very exciting. In His Word, Yahweh gives mother and child a special separation after the birthing for healing and bonding purposes. If the woman has a male child she is to be separate or in *niddah* for seven days plus thirty-three days for her purification, for a total of forty days. During the time of her purification, she is not to enter into marital relations. The male child is circumcised on the eighth day. Medically the eighth day is proven to be the least painful and with the least loss of blood for the child. The mother completes her purification at the end of forty days, presenting an elevation offering/*olah* and a sin offering/*chatah* to Yahweh as a sign that ends her *niddah* and for a change of status back to marital relations. For the birth of a female child the length of the days of separation is double, fourteen days for her purification and sixty-six for her separation, a total of eighty days. In the New Testament/*Brit Chadashah* we witness Mary obeying the principles of separation (called purification) after the birth of Jesus/*Yeshua*.

📖 **Luke 2:22-24** “Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to Yahweh’), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, ‘A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons’” (Leviticus 12).

This *niddah* time is not only for healing the body after the birthing process, it also allows the woman to enjoy her baby and not have added responsibilities imposed on her like going to the congregation, working, or having other outside influences interrupt her focus of looking after their baby and home life. God sets aside the forty or eighty-day separation periods to bring complete health to both mother and child. By obeying this commandment, including no marital relations during this healing time, the Scriptures say *blessed will be your womb, your possessions and your land*.

📖 **Deuteronomy 28:9-11** “Yahweh will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of Yahweh your God and walk in his ways. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of Yahweh, and they will fear you. Yahweh will grant you abundant prosperity - in the fruit of your womb, the

young of your livestock and the crops of your ground - in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.”

Regulations about Infectious Skin Diseases

Leviticus 13:34-36

Where does disease come from? The body, soul and spirit are all interconnected as the following passage in 3 John confirms.

✠ **3 John 1:2** “Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”

Our thoughts and emotions combine with our will to form our soul. They all must act as *one/echad* in unity. Our beliefs form the cornerstone of how we *see* things, which impacts how we store information. What we know is based on how we interpret data from our senses. It is important to remember as we relate to our fellow man that we may sometimes be in the wrong or the other may simply see things differently. Healthy relationships require flexibility to see things from many different perspectives regardless of our position or personal belief, that is why Yahweh gave us His word; the measuring line for all truth in our lives.

Freewill is what produces action based, on the thoughts, emotions and beliefs we have, whether good or bad. Feelings are the sensory data. When we use the terms “*I saw*,” “*I heard*,” and “*I felt*,” these express emotions that are the result of what we believe about that sensory data. It is imperative we not allow our imaginations to speculate things which are not true. For example, what we interpret to be someone who appears to be angry may instead be a person who is sad or just squinting to protect his or her eyes from the glaring sun. The key distinction between feelings and emotions is that emotions, as opposed to reason, are the subjective reactions involving psychological and physical changes that fuel feelings (the capacity for both emotion and sensibility) with a belief system. If that belief system has been programmed with negative data, the body functions on *negative* (instead of *positive* responses), which affect the whole day and lifestyle. This behavior is opposed to Yahweh’s Kingdom.

Emotions start from the womb. At the 24th week a baby can hear and begin to distinguish sounds. DNA is silent intelligence and RNA (ribonucleic acid) is the transmission of that data. Every thought, impulse, emotion and belief impacts both the RNA transmission and the DNA programming. For example, if a person *expects* rejection or is bitter that will affect their ability in how they see, hear or feel.

Three unrighteous emotional roots that may affect us are *spirits of fear, anger and sorrow*. These are able to influence us as a consequence of our ancestor’s iniquities or by us having come into agreement with the ruler of the kingdom of darkness through innocent or willful sin (transgressions). Scripture tells us our battle is not against human beings (flesh), but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 6:10-12). There is a connection between our spirit man and our soul (our mind, will, memory and emotions), and as such we can fall prey to becoming

one with thoughts the adversary would have us think. Disease can be an outflow from these unclean influences.

Scripture says that the sins of the fathers flow to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 20:5). This *old* nature (actions, thoughts and behaviors), transfer from one generation to a succeeding third to fourth generation. In other words, iniquities are the generational sins we participate with. Life is in the blood. We are the result of our parent's blood coming together; we are *flesh of their flesh*. Iniquities can show up as predispositions to unloving personality characteristics such as those mentioned earlier, that of fear, anger and sorrow. It is as if their "voices" call out through the *memory* of the blood and, if we listen, we become one spiritually and psychologically with them, inheriting the same wrong mindsets and choices that our ancestors had.

Deuteronomy 28 records the blessings that flow when we follow Yahweh's ways, along with the curses that come against us if we do not. Quoting from Pastor Henry Wright's book *A More Excellent Way*,

"Diseases in our lives can be a result of a separation from Him [God] and His Word in specific areas of our lives. God would have to become double minded, would have to become evil in condoning evil, in order to bless us in our sins."

Therefore Yahweh is as faithful to the curses, as He is faithful to the blessings. Iniquities that flow to the third and fourth generation are listed in the form of curses. Deuteronomy 28 teaches us that these illnesses can come as a result of innocently transgressing His ways through lack of understanding, from not obeying His food laws, or, in general, by refusing to obey His teaching. Diseases such as mental and/or emotional breakdown, barrenness or reproductive problems, breakdown of marriage and family alienation, continuing financial insufficiency, accident-proneness, history of suicide, unnatural or untimely deaths in families all come from transgression against Yahweh's teaching and instruction.

Any thoughts we have that do not match how Yahweh thinks and what He would say is a form of *insanity*. If we are allowing fears and phobias, envy, jealousy, and so on to manifest in our lives – that is "insanity." We have become one with things that are not Yahweh's Kingdom but which, repeated over time and become part of our physiology. Thus we tend to say, "*That's just the way I am.*"

The major blockage to healing is unforgiveness, which causes bitterness or bitterroot judgments in us. Our bitterness can be against Yahweh, our neighbor, or even ourselves. Guilt, shame and self-pity are all offshoots of this that act like *glue* binding a person to his past. Unforgiveness negates the death of Yeshua and effectively denies the fact that Yahweh forgave and made all things new. Bitterness is the root of many diseases that can lead to an early death if left unchecked.

Possible symptoms related to a bitter root spirit are: plagues, wasting diseases, burning fevers, inflammations, incurable boils, tumors, festering sores, incurable itches, blindness, fear, prolonged plagues like diabetes and ongoing sicknesses like cancer or heart disease (Deuteronomy 28:21-61).

📖 **Nehemiah 8:10** “Do not sorrow, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength.”

📖 **1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The Mind - The Battleground!

When we come to salvation we are taught to forgive, because “*anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness*” (1 John 2:9). Satan’s mission, on the other hand, is to keep the believer blind and in the dark (or *realm of death*) in unforgiveness, which blocks our redemption. In Yeshua we have the truth, and the truth will set us free - *if* we choose to walk in it. We are no longer *under* the law of sin and death but are *in the law of liberty* that brings *life*. Our job is to discern our thought life and cast down all *vain imaginations coming from within ourselves*.

📖 **2 Corinthians 10:5** “Casting down *imaginations*, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of Yahweh, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Jesus/Yeshua.”

Like the apostle Paul, we have both laws at work in our members: *the law of life* and *the law of sin and death*. There is ever before us a choice (when faced with situations): to obey Yahweh and walk in the realm that gives life or disobey and incur the realm that brings death (Romans 7). As we begin to meditate on *the law of life*, the Spirit of God trains us to forgive ourselves and our fellowman. In opposition to that, the spirit of unforgiveness is an enemy, which wants to attack us to sow division among the body of Messiah. With both laws warring within us, we daily need to renew our minds in order to choose Yahweh’s Kingdom not the law of sin. We are now able to discern that unforgiveness is evil and forgiveness is godly. This is maturity. Maturity discerns and enables us to choose the way of life not death, blessings not curses. *Choose life!* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

The War within the Mind

Romans 7:16-18, 22-23, 25; 8:1-2 Paul taught:

“I agree that the law [*Torah – God’s teaching and instruction*] is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is *sin living in me*. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For in my inner being I delight in God's law [*His teaching and instruction - the Torah*]; but I see **another law** [*nomos: the law of sin and death*] at work in the members of my body, waging war against **the law of my mind** and making me a prisoner of the law of sin [*and death – nomos*] at work within my members. Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ/Yeshua Ha Mashiach our Savior! So then, I myself in my mind am a *slave to God's law [Torah, the law of life]*, but in the sinful nature a *slave to the law of sin [and death – nomos]*. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ/Yeshua Ha Mashiach, because

through Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach* the law of the Spirit of life [*Torah/ the realm of life*] set me free from the law of sin and death [*nomos/the realm of death*].”

✠ **Hebrews 5:14** “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves [*the mind*] to distinguish good from evil.”

We have the ability in our hearts to forgive; this is our new nature given us, which takes unclean thoughts into captivity. By the power of the Spirit of Yeshua we can train ourselves to recognize and repent of wrong actions and speech. This is how to break the cycle of unforgiveness and strongholds in our lives, and begin to walk in His Kingdom (the Tree of Life), moving from one realm (the common – the Enemy’s world) to another realm (holiness – Yeshua’s Royal Court).

If we are set *free* by Yeshua’s death and resurrection, why are there just as much infirmity, psychiatric disorder and biological disease among believers as there is in the world? Are we living in deception, trying to act like we are a new creation when in reality we look and feel just like the old as if none of the promises of a renewed life are for us? We are the body of Yeshua. Is Yeshua diseased, insane or bitter? No! Does the Congregation of Yeshua need to be converted *again*? No! Rather the grace of Yahweh makes it possible for us to recognize what is *good* versus what is *evil*, so we can *choose* to walk in His upright ways in holiness before Him and be blessed.

Disease – A Product of Our Thinking?

Why does Satan want our blood? Life of the body is in the blood. If the enemy can get control of our DNA in our bloodstream through generational sin (iniquities) or personal sin (transgressions), our body becomes accessible to his kingdom plans.

✠ **Hebrews 4:12-13** “For the word of Yahweh is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

We know our soul and spirit are to work together but if we repeatedly entertain *spirits of fear of tomorrow*, creating imaginations of what could go wrong and projecting that into the future, eventually we will become one with that fear. A disease like high blood pressure can be a symptom of fear. The Word of Yahweh says He has not given us the spirit of fear but of *power, love and a sound mind*. Yeshua, the Living Word of Yahweh, is Spirit, and He is life. The Spirit of Yahweh is in us to bear witness to the truth because He desires to lead us into *all* truth. At the spirit level, what the spirit of fear has taught is how to be afraid of tomorrow. The Holy Spirit brings this negative spiritual dynamic in our thoughts under the authority of the Word of Yahweh. Scripture says, “*For it is written*” and they are not merely *words* to us, they are as if Yahweh Himself is saying to us, “*This is what I have said. Listen to My words. No longer listen to the voice of the enemy.*” How important it is therefore for us to read the Word of God and hide it in our hearts. The Holy Spirit acts on what *Yahweh has said* not what our enemies say. He will

never agree with the enemy's thoughts. We may agree with the enemy's thoughts, but God says, only hear My Word.

✠ **John 10:5** "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

Through the washing of water of the Word, our minds are renewed so that the law of Yahweh (the realm that brings life) is prominent. When our soul comes into agreement with Yahweh's Word, we become one with Him. It is then that the Word of Yahweh *in* us opposes the law of sin and death. The two laws are both in Torah where we incur *blessing* or the law of life for obedience to His Word and *curses* or the law of sin and death for disobedience. The Holy Spirit moves within the Word and breathes life and power into God's teaching and instruction - the Torah - which is written in our hearts, causing us to choose the *law of life*. Consequently, the *law of sin and death* loses its power over us.

The Word of Yahweh is able to separate us from any influencing thought or spirit contrary to Yahweh's truth so that by His *power* and *authority* we can say to any negative influence that wars within us like, "No! I am not bowing down to that which separates me from Yahweh" and "I am what Yahweh says I am in His Word!" That is what the Torah can do in us! The Word of Yahweh is revived in us when we read His Truth and mix that with our belief in *His Faithfulness*. Because we believe in what He says and that He is able, in this way the human spirit becomes conformed to Him and is sanctified. The process, which is separate from salvation, is called our redemption and leads to a sanctified, holy life in Yeshua.

✠ **Psalm 18:2** "Yahweh is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

✠ **Psalm 27:1** A Psalm of David. "Yahweh is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, *My heart* shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident."

Cleanse Ourselves

✠ **2 Corinthians 7:1** "Since we have these promises, dear friends [*believers*], *let us purify ourselves* from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (2 Timothy 2: 20-21).

What spiritual filthiness and defilement could the above passage be addressing as it is speaking to believers? In the case of fear, stress and anxiety, the disease of high blood pressure for example is a result of fear, stress and anxiety. To be afraid of the future or what might go wrong tomorrow is the sin of dishonor against God, others and ourselves. When we repent and choose to return and walk in agreement with The Word of Yahweh, Yahweh begins to separate the unclean sinful (realm of death) nature within us, from His nature (the realm of life). Then our *minds* are able to be renewed and participate with Yahweh by trusting in His Faithfulness as our

Savior and Provider as promised by His Word. Any problems and challenges we have today are wonderful steps and teaching tools to success in the future. That is why He calls us overcomers. Our changed attitudes transform us through His principles, which brings us into the perfect order that Yahweh has for our lives. His perfect will is to bless us, redeem us and sanctify us so that we do not walk as refugees any longer but as full citizens and ambassadors in His Kingdom.

🌿 **Deuteronomy 33:29** “Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help and the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, and you shall tread down their high places.”

🌿 **Romans 5:1-5** “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with Yahweh through Yeshua, the Messiah, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of Yahweh. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because Yahweh has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

And again we quote Hebrews 4:12-13,

“For the word of Yahweh is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of [our] heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom *we* must give account.”

What is hidden that Hebrews 4 is referring to? What unknowns does only Yahweh see that we *need* to see? Correspondingly, what causes the immune system to break down? It may be what is behind many of our diseases. The other side to health and nutritional care of the temple is the spiritual side (Leviticus 11). We are the temple of the living God, how are we maintaining His temple? If health were merely a nutritional issue we wouldn't need Yahweh - our god would be what we put into our belly. When we look at disease in Deuteronomy 28:15 we discover the root of disease is sin; with no mention made of nutrition.

🌿 **Leviticus 4:31** “He shall remove all its fat, as fat is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offering; and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma to Yahweh. So the priest shall make atonement for him, *and it shall be forgiven him.*”

Fat is hidden within us. Fat is a reference to pride in scripture. Pride hosts fear. The root of fear is unforgiveness. Pride separates us from Yahweh. He commands us not to keep the fat (pride), but to cut it out, put it on the altar and allow Yahweh to burn it completely. When we remove the fat, we expose our organs so that He can have full access, like a doctor, to cleanse us of anything that war within us against Him.

The medical field says that fear releases a very damaging hormone in our system called *cortisol* that causes destruction to the immune system, thyroid, blood sugar levels, bone density and muscle tissue. Other health problems like blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes can also be

related. Cortisol will continue to be released into our system in conjunction with any unresolved fear, anxiety and stress we may have. If this is true, we must look at what kinds of fear could be causing destruction to our immune system.

Diseases of the Heart

The Causes of a Broken Spirit

- 📖 **Proverbs 17:22** “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.”
- 📖 **1 John 4:18** “There is no fear in love; but perfect *love casts out fear, because fear involves torment*. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”
- 📖 **Isaiah 35: 3-6** “Strengthen the *weak hands*, and make firm the *feeble knees*. **Say to those who are fearful-hearted**, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the *eyes of the blind* shall be opened, and the *ears of the deaf* shall be unstopped. Then the *lame shall leap* like a deer, and the *tongue of the dumb* sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.”

On Love

Eighty-five percent of the people in America do not remember hearing their father say to them as children “*I love you*.” Many of them have negative memories and scars from emotional, verbal, physical and even sexual abuse. All this and more can lead to one having a driven character type, one who is obsessed with performance, perfection, legalism and control in order to obtain love and be accepted. This can produce fear, anxiety and stress. The Bible recognizes this truth, telling us, “There is no fear in love.” So what comes to fill the void for those who have not been loved properly; to those who have not had demonstrations of affection, words of love and affirmation in childhood? Fear is the sad answer. And how do we get rid of it? Perfect love, that comes from obedience to Yeshua’s principles as we draw closer to Yahweh, casts out fear.

What Is Torment?

Torment is also called *tribulation* in scripture. If we wrestle with torment and do not have peace in certain areas of our life then Yahweh is not Lord there. This can be the result of unresolved issues caused by relational breakdowns in family, marriages, friends, congregations, work places, or financial difficulties and so on that help keep fear, anxiety and stress in place. Torment sets in motion spiritual, mental and body imbalances. Ninety percent of all pain disorders are spiritually rooted in what the medical field calls psychogenic pain, caused by a negative view of oneself, along with fear and anxiety. All the enemy needs is one gland, the hypothalamus, to throw people into *dis-ease*, which can produce well over 100 diseases, either being activated by an imbalance in body chemistry or neurology, all based *on how people think*.

He that fears is not made perfect in love, and is not able to give or receive love without fear. This can become a foundation that destroys the immune system. When you don't feel loved, accepted, or nurtured and no one encourages, compliments or tells you they love you, it could lead to a spiritual root of rejection, leading to intimidation, poor self worth, codependency and the list continues. This can all become part of your spirituality and physiology if rejection is the root. Being in the Word of Yeshua and applying it to our lives daily washes us and renews a right spirit within us.

🌿 **1 John 4:18** “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

🌿 **2 Timothy 1:7** “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

🌿 **Psalm 51:10** “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Our Thoughts

Our thoughts play a profound role in the wellness of our being, including our glands, organs and systems. Blessings and curses. It all depends on what we allow to influence our thoughts, for from out of the mouth flow messages from three sources: Yahweh, our flesh or the Enemy. Yahweh knows the thoughts we attempt to hide. They not only affect us but others as well. Science has established that the thoughts of our hearts can project an unseen field up to a distance of 10-12 feet around. You can almost slice the air around an angry person, but be in the company of a joyous person or celebration and you are caught up in the happiness.

The skin diseases in Leviticus are not merely bodily skin diseases but other physical manifestations arising from spiritual conditions of the heart. Yahweh, in His wisdom, lets us know when we cross over from the realm of life and touch the realm of death. He is continually teaching us discernment. This is not a salvation issue but a contamination issue. Slander and gossip bring defilement, which leads to afflictions that contaminate not only us but also spreads to other people if not isolated and healed.

Yahweh's Word says that contamination breaks out in three areas: garments, houses and bodies. Gossip and slander is relating *ritually* unclean or destructive talk about people to others. This is acting as Satan's mouthpiece and will poison to our soul. The Word says this is not right and will lead to death, spiritually and physically. By studying ritual cleanliness through Yahweh's teaching and instruction, we learn how to live holy, sanctified lives, free from the realms that caused death and destruction in our lives and in others.

🌿 **Proverbs 13:2** “A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.”

How Do We Turn It Around?

How do we go about cleaning contamination (*the sin of dishonor*) out of our lives or prevent it from spreading?

📖 **2 Timothy 2:20-21** “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter [*dishonor*], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

When we are hidden in the Messiah Yeshua and He has the victory over our lives. Walking in His Righteousness (right ways) will cause us to return.

📖 **Psalms 19:7** “The law of Yahweh is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple;”

📖 **Exodus 20:6** Yahweh said, “...but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Sin is missing the mark - neglecting His ways and becoming contaminated. Applying His Ways will clean us and keep us in the realm of life and on the Highway of Holiness (Isaiah 35:8). His teaching and instruction is *Life*. Outside His teaching and instruction is contamination and death. To be restored we need to acknowledge our forefather’s iniquities and our own participation with sin and repent. Then we bathe (*mikvah*) and return to His righteous ways.

This is why so much of the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha* is written on how we are to think and what our attitudes ought to be. Those who are in Yeshua are destined to become priests; they are not to entertain the old nature of unclean thoughts and behaviors from the past. We are to leave that all behind through forgiveness and repentance to overcome and move forward, letting Yeshua’s peace rule in our hearts.

📖 **Philippians 4:4-9** “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. *Be anxious for nothing*, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your *hearts and minds* through Christ Jesus/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach*.”

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- *meditate on these things*. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these *do*, and *the God of peace* will be with you.”

Inflammations

Leviticus 13:6-9

When the Bible speaks of inflammations, it also is a reference to vain imaginations, mind games, slander, and gossip. They contaminate and make us unclean as they spread and inflame others, like a forest fire that takes only a spark to start, but so easily spreads and consumes everything in its path. Gossip (called *lashon hara* in Hebrew, meaning *evil tongue*) and murmurs scar people. If *the fire* is not contained, it will continue to spread until it consumes the whole house or community. Torah describes this as *tzarat* (Strong's # H6879), meaning in Hebrew *the visible manifestation of the contagious impurity*, which Yahweh will not tolerate in His House. Slander, bloodshed, false oaths and immorality are lies of the enemy that can destroy a whole community. They are not of Yahweh's Kingdom.

📖 **Exodus 4:6-8** “Furthermore Yahweh said to him [*Moses*], ‘Now put your hand in your bosom.’ And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, [*tzara*] like snow. And He said, ‘Put your hand in your bosom again.’ So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. Then Yahweh said, ‘Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.’”

Yahweh was teaching Moses the difference between clean and unclean. That it was *what comes out of the heart that makes a man unclean*. Yahweh gave to Moses and the children of Israel these pictures as signs and wonders to demonstrate the spiritual manifestation of their unclean hearts. Yahweh was calling His people to return to Him, the only *One* who could heal them.

Another sign of this was with Miriam, Moses' sister. Numbers 12:1-15 records what happened when Moses' sister Miriam and his brother Aaron spoke against Moses because he had married a *black* Ethiopian woman. Yahweh's judgment fell upon Miriam in the form of a *skin* condition called *tzarat*, which turned her *white* as snow. This outward appearance revealed her heart for all to see. In her uncleanness she was led outside the camp where she stayed until her seven days of impurity were completed. Even if she repented at the beginning, she was not allowed to return to camp until the full seven days outside the camp were complete for the consequence of her sin. Also, the children of Israel did not journey until Miriam was brought back into the camp.

Miriam's sin was *lashon hara*, gossip and slander. If we gossip and slander we render ourselves impure and unclean seven days, “outside the camp” also. During this time we miss the blessings and potential journeys with Yahweh until our time is over. This should make us think very carefully about what our approach, our thoughts and our speech will be towards others and ourselves in the future.

Burns

Leviticus 13:9-25

Burns cause inflamed flesh. Anger causes the face to become red, reddish white or white with rage. This is a skin *tzarat* affliction. What causes a person to be so inflamed with rage and anger?

🌿 **James 1:14, 19-22** “Each one is tempted when, *by his own evil desire*, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. *Do what it says.*”

Cleaning Our Ways

The Ritual Application of Yahweh’s Principles

The treatment for *tzarat* was to remove and isolate the contamination. The one spreading gossip, slanderous thoughts and bad reports about other people was to be removed from the camp before it infected the whole camp. During this time they were considered contagious. After the seven days the priest inspected them to see if the condition had spread or changed. What the priest was inspecting was both the body and the heart condition of the contaminated person. Treating the heart and mind (sickness of *the spirit*), took care of the sickness on the *body* in the physical dimension.

Once the contaminated person repented, the priest anointed the person with oil and immersed them in *water/mikvah* for status change from the unclean realm into the clean realm. The person was thus restored back into communion with Yahweh and the community of fellowship again. This is called the ritual application of Yahweh’s teaching and instruction for Life and is still applicable today! This principle comes not from Judaism or rabbinic teaching, but Yeshua, the LIFE in Torah!

Often a community can be too quick to receive a *tzarat* (unclean) person back into the fold before the said person has totally repented and cleansed his way as Yahweh instructs us in His Word. Or even more damaging, the *tzarat*/contaminated person may have never been addressed and is still continuing to spread contamination throughout the community because leadership has not properly evaluated the *tzarat* behavior. The way back to relationship with Yahweh is only through repentance and forgiveness. *Tzarat* afflictions have been designed by Yahweh to redeem His people back into relationship with Him, to keep His camp clean and to have a functioning priesthood and holy nation before Him.

🌿 **Psalm 51:10** “Create in me a clean heart, O Yahweh; and renew a right spirit within me.”

🌿 **John 14:15** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

🌿 **John 14:24** “He who does not love Me does not keep My words.(Has no peace) ; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.”

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Reference

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