



PARASHAT TAZRIA

פרשת תזריע

Leviticus 12:1-13:59

by
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& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 12:1 The Laws of Human Contamination
- 12:2 Childbirth and Purification
- 13:1 Various Skin Diseases
- 13:29 Skin Diseases of the Head or Face
- 13:40 Baldness at the Front and Back of the Head
- 13:45 One With a Skin Disorder Was Put Outside the Camp
- 13:47 Diseases Within Clothing

Exploring This Week's Parashah

1 Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness: Ceremonial Purification

This is a difficult Torah portion to write about, for it covers some subjects that are not easy to discuss such as contamination (that which causes something else to become impure or polluted), filth of the human body, and diseases of the skin and clothing. But these subjects are dealt with in YHVH's Word for a reason. Remember in last week's Parashah how we learned that a godly and set-apart (holy) people do not eat unclean meats if they want to remain the special and pure people of YHVH. To eat creatures (like pork and shellfish) that are not food (according to the Bible) was an abomination (totally detestable) in the eyes of YHVH. This week we will learn about other areas of cleanliness and purity that are also important to YHVH.



- (a) Why is it important that YHVH's people be a pure and a clean people? (Read Leviticus 11:44 and 45.)



(b) YHVH is clean (pure or set-apart) in every way (how he acts, how he thinks, what he says). When YHVH created man, who did he pattern man after? (Read Genesis 1:27.) How do you think it makes YHVH—who is man's loving heavenly Father—feel when men do not act like YHVH and do not have clean thoughts, words, or actions like YHVH? Do you think YHVH wanted man to treat their bodies that are made in his likeness respectfully by keeping them clean as well?



(c) When you see rotten and moldy food, a dead and a decaying animal along the side of the road, a filthy human who has not bathed or changed their clothes in a long time, how does it make you feel? Do you want to be around that which is rotten, dirty and smelly? What happened to Israelites who fell into this condition? Did other Israelites want to be around them? Under what conditions were they quarantined or forbidden from leaving their homes? (Read Leviticus 13:5.)



2 Skin Diseases Caused by Sins of the Mouth

Some of our Bibles use the term "leprosy" to describe the disease mentioned in Leviticus 13. The Hebrew word for this is "tzaraas," which refers to a type of a skin disease in humans, or molds and mildews in clothing or houses. One who had tzaraas was called a "metzora," which is a Hebrew word that literally means "one who speaks slander, or evil words about someone else." This has led some Bible scholars to see this disease as one that comes on people because of sins of their mouth.

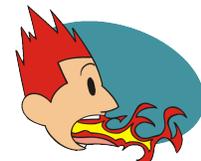


(d) What are some sins of the mouth? With your adult teacher's help, discuss the meaning of the following words:

- **Slander:** an individual who tries to injure someone's reputation or character by false and defamatory statements. (Read Numbers 14:36; Jeremiah 6:28; 1 Timothy 3:11; Proverbs 10:18; Psalm 101:5; Jeremiah 9:4.)
- **Lying:** a purposeful or intentional false statement (Read Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8.)
- **Gossiping or Talebearing:** elaborating and exaggerating the truth so as to make a story more dramatic or "juicy" (Read Proverbs 11:13; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20,22; Leviticus 19:16; Romans 1:28-30; 1 Timothy 5:13.)
- **Complaining:** one who likes to find fault (Read Numbers 11:1; Jude 16.)



Which one are you?



- **Murmuring:** one who grumbles (Read Philippians 2:14; Numbers 16:2; Jude 16.)
- **A Busybody:** one who spreads a false report (Read 1 Peter 4:15; 1 Timothy 5:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:11.)
- **Backbiting:** one who speaks evil against someone else (Read Psalm 15:2-3; Romans 1:28-30; Proverbs 25:23 and 2 Corinthians 12:20.)

Using our mouth to speak evil about others not only causes us to lose friends (people don't want to be around us), but will cause our Father in heaven to turn away from us as well. YHVH doesn't want to be around those who speak evil, for he is pure and holy, and those who speak evil against others are impure and unholy.



(e) Discover what Yeshua and the apostles said about the tongue by reading the following Scripture passages:

- Matthew 12:34-37; 15:10-19
- Luke 6:45
- James 3:1-12; 4:11
- Ephesians 4:29-32

3 Tzaraas as a Picture of the Sinful Condition of Man

It is believed that the skin disease of tzaraas was not only the result of sins of the mouth, but was brought on by selfishness, pride, sexual immorality and greed as well, and that this plague was a direct punishment by the hand of Elohim.



(f) What are some biblical examples of people being struck with the plague of "leprosy" or tzaraas as a result of evil speech, greed, pride, sexual immorality or selfishness? (Read Numbers 12:1-10; 2 Kings 5:20-27; 2 Chronicles 26:16-21.)



(g) If you knew that you would be struck with some terrible disease every time you sinned with your mouth, were proud or selfish, or had an immoral thought how would that affect your actions? Would you sin as often? You may say to yourself, "Well, that doesn't happen anymore. Ever since Yeshua died, we're under grace and YHVH doesn't 'zap' people anymore whenever they sin." Can you be certain of this? Do you want to tempt YHVH and find out? He may not discipline his children today as soon as they sin, but what about tomorrow? (Read Hebrews 12:5-11.)



(h) Do you remember what happened to Ananias and Sapphira when they sinned with their mouth? They lived after the time of Yeshua's death in what some Christians refer to as "the dispensation or age of grace" ? (Read Acts 5:1-11.)



What we want to teach you in this lesson is that sin has consequences whether immediate or future. Scripture says that all humans will appear before YHVH's judgment seat to answer to him for the sins they have committed (that have not been washed away in the blood of Yeshua, Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

