

Remote Youth Groups!!!

Parshas Metzora

Parsha Summary and Discussion

Parshas Metzora

A *Metzora* is a person who has *tzaraat*. This person is impure and has to leave the camp (or city) and wait there until the *tzaraat* goes away. When the kohen visits him outside of the camp and see that he no longer has *tzaraat*, he does a special procedure with two birds, spring water, a cedar stick, a strip of red wool, and a bundle of the herb hyssop. Then the person washes his clothing, shaves his hair and immerses in the mikvah. He is now purified and may return to the camp.

Discuss – The rabbis teach us that Tzaraas come from speaking Lashon Hora, slander, about others. Why is it appropriate that the Metzora should be quarantined? (it is an appropriate punishment because he/she caused there to be distance between other people, so now he/she must be alone)

Houses can also be afflicted with *tzaraat*, and again it is the kohen's job to identify it. If he detects *tzaraat* in the walls of the house, he locks up the house and it is left alone for seven days. If the *tzaraat* then disappears, the house is fine, but if nothing happens, or if the *tzaraat* has spread, the afflicted stones are removed and replaced, the walls are replastered, and the house is locked up for another seven days. If after the second week the kohen sees that the *tzaraat* has spread, he declares the the house *tameh* and it is burned or destroyed.

Garments can also be afflicted with *tzaraat*. The treatment of an afflicted garment is similar to that of a house.

Discuss – The Rabbis teach us that Tzaraas is a completely spiritual illness and it doesn't work logically with the physical world. But nowadays we don't have it because we are not close enough to Hashem to communicate with Him so intimately. How does this make sense?

The end of the parshah discusses three other types of impurity, and how someone can be purified from each one.

Parsha Questions

Q: Who do you go to see if you think you have Tzaraas?

A: The Kohein

Q: Where does one who has Tzaraas have to go?

A: Outside the camp

Q: What sin does Tzaraas come from?

A: Speaking slander

Q: What can get Tzaraas?

A: People, Houses, and clothing

Q: What does the Kohein do if he isn't sure if it is Tzaraas or not?

A: Tells the Metzora to close up in his house for a week

Q: What happens to clothing and a house that have tzaraas?

A: The affected area must be destroyed

Harder Questions:

- When may a metzora not be pronounced tahor?

14:2 - At night.

- In the midbar, where did a metzora dwell while he was tamei?

14:3 - Outside the three camps.

- Why does the metzora require birds in the purification process?

14:4 - Tzara'at comes as a punishment for lashon hara. Therefore, the Torah requires the metzora to offer birds, who chatter constantly, to atone for his sin of chattering.

- In the purification process of a metzora, what does the cedar wood symbolize?

14:4 - The cedar is a lofty tree. It alludes to the fact that tzara'at comes as a punishment for haughtiness.

- During the purification process, the metzora is required to shave his hair. Which hair must he shave?

14:9 - Any visible collection of hair on the body.

- What is unique about the chatat and the asham offered by the metzora?

14:10 - They require n'sachim (drink offerings).

- In the Beit Hamikdash, when the metzora was presented "before G-d" (14:11), where did he stand?

14:11 - At the gate of Nikanor.

- Where was the asham of the metzora slaughtered?

14:13 - On the northern side of the mizbe'ach.

- How was having tzara'at in one's house sometimes advantageous?

14:34 - The Amorites concealed treasures in the walls of their houses. After the conquest of the Land, tzara'at would afflict these houses. The Jewish owner would tear down the house and find the treasures.

- When a house is suspected of having tzara'at, what is its status prior to the inspection by a kohen?

14:36 - It is tahor.

- What happens to the vessels that are in a house found to have tzara'at?

14:36 - They become tamei.

- Which type of vessels cannot be made tahor after they become tamei?

14:36 - Earthenware vessels.

- Where were stones afflicted with tzara'at discarded?

14:40 - In places where tahor objects were not handled

- When a house is suspected of having tzara'at, a kohen commands that the affected stones be replaced and the house plastered. What is the law if the tzara'at:

returns and spreads;

does not return;

returns, but does not spread?

14:44-45 - It is called "tzara'at mam'eret," and the house must be demolished;

14:48 - The house is pronounced tahor;

14:44 - The house must be demolished.

- When a person enters a house that has tzara'at, when do his clothes become tamei?

14:46 - When he remains in the house long enough to eat a small meal.

- What is the status of a man who is zav (sees a flow):

two times or two consecutive days;

three times or three consecutive days?

15:2 -

He is tamei;

he is tamei and is also required to bring a korban.

- A zav sat or slept on the following:

a bed;

a plank;

a chair;

a rock.

15:4-5 - Only a type of object that one usually lies or sits upon becomes a transmitter of tumah when a zav sits or lies on it. A tahor person who subsequently touches the object becomes tamei and the clothes he is wearing are also tamei'im. Therefore:

tamei;

tahor;

tamei;

tahor.

- What does the Torah mean when it refers to a zav who "has not washed his hands"?

15:11 - One who has not immersed in a mikveh.

- When may a zav immerse in a mikveh to purify himself?

15:13 - After seven consecutive days without a flow.

- What is the status of someone who experiences a one-time flow?

15:32 - He is tamei until evening.

Good Shabbos!