

## Tazria

I want to remind you we are in the Book of Vayikra, the Holiness Code, the Book of the Kohanim. There is much to learn within this Parsha and next weeks Parsha of M'tzora that apply to us today, more in moral and ethical behaviour, than of the rules and regulations of the Priests. Usually, the two Parshyot are read together as they are one theme, but due to the leap year, this year they are separated.

Therefore, you will be listening to pretty much the same idea next week in the Parsha overview. There is a definite idea of time and space within Judaism, which was given to Moshe from the beginning of the commandments to make our society a Holy society. Therefore, an action or a food or an event that the Israelites did prior to receiving the Torah now had to be accomplished and "re-taught" as a Holy act. In these Parshyot it focuses on a required timeframe to make a separation between the mundane and the Holy. In addition to all the commandments given, the procedure might require a discussion by the Priests to determine how to proceed in a spiritual and holy manner. And if the way the Israelites behaved among the nations in their daily rituals and routines could not be deemed a Holy act then this might have been eliminated all together after the receiving of the Torah. The circumstances within these two Parshyot are given as examples of when the Jew who lives among the nations experiences these acts, they would be the examples of how to live a life that Gd himself commanded. Gd stamped his perfect ideals and processes for the Israelite population, then, and the Jewish person today, to recognize Him as the Master Architect of the World. Within the commandments given there are deeper meanings and an underlining conscious plan to fulfil the mission of the Israelites. For the modern reader, these Parshyot could easily be seem as outdated and not applicable. I can't say otherwise. They even seem in our more progressive world, chauvinistic and offensive. Please, I ask you, do not take the Torah in this matter. Unless you are prepared to truly study the writings and teachings of our Sages regarding the rules and the commandments of Tazria, I ask you to refrain from opinion based on a one-time read. There are two main objectives throughout the Torah to truly try to comprehend, they are: I am Holy Therefore You are Holy and Treat Your Neighbor as Yourself. The commandments the Israelites were to receive, and the education of the Priests are outlined throughout the Book of Vayikra to come to this result.