



Parashah 28: M' tzora

Leviticus 14:1 - 15:33

“One afflicted with *tzar'at*”

“You must keep the Israelites separate from the things that make them unclean.”
Leviticus 15:31

1. Cleansing from Infectious Skin Diseases - 14:1-32

a) Describe the process that the priest followed to cleanse a person who has been cured of an infectious skin disease. Where did this process take place? Did this process cure the person of the disease? Do you see any symbolism in any of these actions?

b) What responsibilities did the person being cured have in the cleansing process? How long did this process take? What did the person do after this period?

c) Describe the process that was to be followed when the person presented himself to the priest at the Tabernacle. What changes were allowed if the person was poor? Can you see any symbolism in this entire process? Why do you think God defined such a process for cleansing after an infectious skin disease?

2. Cleansing from Mildew or Fungus - 14:33-57

a) Where were the Israelites to look for mildew or fungus? Who was to decide if it was a spreading mildew? Describe the process that was followed.

- b) What was done to a house that had a mildew to keep it from spreading? What was done if this didn't work? What about the people who worked or lived in the house?

- c) Describe the process that the priest followed to purify a house cleansed of a spreading mildew. Is this process familiar? What symbolism do you see in this?

3. Discharges Causing Uncleaness - 15:1-33

- a) What do you think is meant by "bodily discharges" in this passage? What kinds of things could cause these?

- b) In what ways might a person with such a discharge bring about uncleaness? What does this suggest to you given your understanding of infectious diseases?

- c) Verses 19 - 30 are the "Laws of Niddah", the laws associated with women during their menstruation periods. What do you find interesting in these verses?

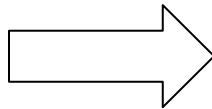
- d) Describe the process that one went through to be purified after the uncleaness caused from a bodily discharge. Is it the same for a man and a woman?

Clean and Unclean

“They [the priests] are to teach my people the difference between the **holy** and the **common** and show them how to distinguish between the **unclean** and the **clean**.”

Ezekiel 44:23

Tahor



- to be bright, pure
- sound, clear
- unadulterated, uncontaminated
- innocent, holy
- to be clean

Tamei



- to be foul, especially in a ceremonial or moral sense
- contaminated
- defiled, polluted
- to be unclean