

Parashah 28 Tidbit

M'tzorah, מְצֹרָע

Vayikra 14:1 – 15:33,

by Marc Gravelle

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Vayikra, 14:1 – 15:33, מְצֹרָע

This part of Vayikra is about the M'tzorah, and this Hebrew word comes from two words; Matza and Rah

The Hebrew word Matza, מָצָא, means *found* or *find*; and the Hebrew word Rah, רָע, means, *evil, bad*; it stems from the root word Tzar, צָר, spelled with a Tzade, צ, and a resh, ר, meaning enemy. Pictographically it is the hook hitting the head.

Verse 2 has a nice ring to it in Hebrew. It basically says, *This shall be the Torah (the Law) of the M'tzorah (leper) on the day of his tahorah (cleansing)*. The Hebrew word for clean or pure, is the word Tahor, טָהוֹר, and the Hebrew word for Law is Torah, תּוֹרָה, The letter Tet, ט, in the word Tahor and the letter Tav, ת, in the word Torah, both have the sound of the English letter T and therefore they are related letters, and that means that the Hebrew words *tahor* and *Torah* have a similar meaning and that meaning is *purity*.

Tzara'at, צָרַעַת, is a disease given to the people by Elohim Himself. The sages believed that it was a disease put upon people by Elohim for *evil speaking* or *slandering other people*. It is a divine affliction; therefore you could say that Tzara'at is a physical manifestation of a spiritual condition. The condition affects more than just our speech, it affects our actions as well.

Messiah describes this condition in *Mark 7:21* as having *evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness*. All of these things come from within a man, and defile the man, in other words he is a Matzorah, a wolf in sheep's clothing and Elohim has chosen in the past to put Tzara'at upon him. Today we have a multitude of diseases that people get when they disobey the Word of Elohim and are classified as Matzorah or ones that *bring forth evil*.

When the soul is starved of spiritual nourishment from our heavenly Father, the body begins to exhibit many unhealthy signs. When people slander another person, what they are really doing, is putting these people down, and they have somehow convinced themselves, that by slandering other people, they are elevating themselves, **BUT** the result of slandering other people, has often, the exact opposite effect.

Luke 4:27 And many lepers Tzara'at, were in Yisrael in the time of Elijah the prophet, and none of them were cleansed, save Naaman the Syrian.

Evil words are what seemed to bring on Tzara'at. We are told in Scripture that *Life and death are in the power of the tongue, Proverbs 18:21*, as Miriam, Mosheh's sister found out, when she murmured

against Mosheh, the anointed one of Yahweh. It was **NOT** a healthy thing for her to do. We have to understand that **EVIL WORDS, SLANDER, OR EVIL THOUGHTS** spoken by **YOU** to try and influence someone's mind to see things **YOUR** way, whether it is about the person you are speaking to or about someone else, **CAN** destroy that person, or the relationship that that person that you are slandering, has with someone else, therefore, in Yahweh's eyes the sin of slandering ranks right up there with **murder**, for when you slander a person you are actually assassinating that person's character.

What lesson therefore, are we to learn from this chapter? We learn that Yahweh wants us to promote **unity and harmony** in the Body of Messiah with our words; we are to **EDIFY** the body, (*Romans 14:19; 1Thessalonians 5:11*) and **IF** our words do that, **THEN**, we do not need to worry about Tzara'at. **IF** our words are promoting peace, gentleness, love, and or harmony, then I say again, we never have to worry about Tzara'at. **BUT, IF** our words display a heart that thinks of itself as superior and separate from those around us, a heart filled with pride, greed and or jealousy, a heart that covets what other people have, then, we do need to be a concerned about Tzara'at.

In **John 7:38** Messiah says that *He that believes Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.* How **IS** that living water that Messiah is speaking of, going to flow out of you? It will flow out of your mouth. Your tongue will speak what is on your heart, which means that your mouth, will become the head of the river of water, that delivers the Words of Living water of Messiah, the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Words of Life, His Torah, to the peoples of the world.

The Scriptures tell us that plagues were often a sign of Yahweh's warning judgement, upon sinful and rebellious behaviour.

For example: Miriam spoke evil of Mosheh, and was afflicted with Tzara'at, and **IF** Mosheh had not interceded on her behalf, and if Miriam had not repented, she would have stayed in that condition for the rest of her life, nevertheless, she still suffered with Tzara'at for seven days.

The spies that returned from the Promised Land and gave an evil report were afflicted with the plague.

The Children of Yisrael's lust for meat, and their evil speech against the manna, was met with a plague.

A plague fell upon the children of Yisrael for their immoral behaviour with the Midianite women.

What we absolutely must realize, **IS that we serve a merciful Elohim** that is **NOT** trying to destroy the wicked, with plagues; instead, Elohim is **ATTEMPTING** to **lead these wicked people into repentance**. Yahweh will chastise the wicked in order to help them see the error of their ways, and hopefully convince them to choose Life. *Deuteronomy 30:19-20*.

We must understand, that the intention or purpose of the plagues, brought upon the peoples of Yisrael and upon the peoples of the world, by Yahweh, **is to chastise the fallen person**, so that they will hopefully choose to **REPENT** of their wicked ways, and be **RESTORED** to the Father's house. Yahweh merely uses punishment as a means of disciplining His people, He puts them outside the

camp, so that they will hopefully see for themselves, the error of their ways, and **THEN** make the conscious decision, to **REPENT** of their Torah transgressions, and be **RESTORED** back into a right relationship with our heavenly Father. We are told in Scripture, that Messiah, will eventually return to earth, and when He does, He will bring in, the time of the restoration of **ALL** things. We have to understand that our heavenly Father and His Son, **are in the RESTORATION business**, and, that by His great Love, Grace, Mercy and forgiving nature, He will **RESTORE ALL** the people who willingly and lovingly choose to turn to the Father and the Son, with contrite, loving obedient hearts, which is what will lead, all who take that path, onto everlasting Life at His side.

Why then is the plague found in cloth, that people wear, and also in their homes? I believe that we have to look at this as an intensifying of the plague on those who stubbornly refuse to repent. The plague begins with a small bump on the skin that can be easily hidden from sight by one's hair or beard or clothing. So then, Yahweh afflicts the hair, but a person can still cover up the baldness caused by the plague, with a veil or a hat or some other type of garment. So then, Yahweh afflicts the garment, and if that too is hidden from sight, or if a person merely decides to remain hidden or sequester themselves in their home, to hide the presence of the affliction, then the Tzara'at is manifested in the building itself. Yahweh afflicts the house of the Matzarah, causing the evil that is within the house to be brought out of the home into plain sight, and into His healing **LIGHT**.

Since Yahweh can see what man cannot, Tzara'at becomes the means by which Yahweh **EXPOSES** even the darkest secrets of a man's heart and soul. Don't forget, *Tzara'at is a physical manifestation of an inward spiritual condition*. Only Yahweh can discern a man's heart, and once He does, then, Yahweh begins the process of exposing the hidden Sins in that person's life, He exposes that persons sinful life, to His pure **LIGHT**, so that the person may be found out, and hopefully choose to **REPENT** of his sinful Torahless ways, so that the healing process may begin.

The purpose of this type of chastisement, this disease, called Tzara'at, is so that the infected person may recognize their condition, and hopefully repent from their wicked Torah transgressing ways, and choose Life, choose obedience to the Words of Yahweh's Torah of Life and **NOT** suffer death, which, in this case, is a picture of eternal damnation.

In *verses 4-6* we see that the Priest commands that two birds, be taken for the leper that is to be cleansed. We assume that they are two turtle doves or pigeons, because we are not told. The priest also commands that cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet be taken for the leper. What does all this mean?

First of all I want you to see the grace of Yahweh here in this *verse*. We see that these items, the two birds, the cedar, the scarlet and the hyssop are provided for the leper, they do not come from the leper himself, **BUT** they are provided for him by the congregation and or the priests. Leper's had no way of making a living, and therefore they had to live off of the handouts of their loved ones or the generosity of the people of their villages, and therefore, they would not be able to afford to purchase the two birds, the cedar, the scarlet and the hyssop. This is also a picture that shows us that **REDEMPTION** and **SALVATION are a GIFT from our heavenly Father**, it is a **GIFT** that cannot be purchased. It is also a lesson for all of us that we are to pray for those that are lost, so that one day, they might be restored to the house of Yahweh, for He loves each and every soul that has ever been born, with a perfect and infinite **LOVE**.

Notice also, that the bird that is killed is **NOT** killed in the temple on the altar of Yahweh, as a sacrifice offered onto Yahweh. That is because **IT IS NOT** a sacrifice to Yahweh; **IT IS A** sacrifice of cleansing for the leper. Sacrifices that are offered on the altar of Yahweh, must belong to or have been purchased by the person that is doing the sacrifice, and then given to the priest, by the person that is requesting to be reconciled with the Father. The sacrifice **IS** a picture of a believer repenting from his Torah transgressions, his sin, and coming back into a right standing, a right relationship with Yahweh. The cleansing of the leper is a picture of redemption, and restoration, where the leper or sinner who was no longer part of the assembly of Yahweh, **IS NOW** redeemed and restored into the family of Yahweh.

In the instructions, we are told that one of the birds is killed in an earthen vessel, over running or living water. This *earthen vessel* along with the *running water* is a picture of our Messiah who became flesh (earthen vessel) for our salvation, and who is filled with the Spirit of the Father, represented by the living, running water. The blood and the water fill the earthen vessel, and this is a picture of the water and the blood coming out of the side of our Messiah, when He was crucified for the Sin of the world. Then, the priest takes the live bird, the cedar, the scarlet and the hyssop and dips them in the blood of the bird that has just been sacrificed. The living bird is a picture of us, and the hyssop, cedar and scarlet are pictures of all are past ways, and they are being washed by the blood of Messiah, our sacrificial Lamb and changing our lives and the way we will walk from now on.

The Cedar wood (עֵצֵי) *erez* represents our haughtiness, our pride, while the hyssop (אֶזוֹב) *azov* represents humility. The scarlet, (שָׁנִי) *Shawnee*, is from a worm and represents lowliness of sinful man. Only when the proud sinful man, represented by the *cedar wood and the scarlet*, willingly chooses to humble himself before Yahweh, the Creator of **ALL** things, represented by *the hyssop*, **IS** he declared Tahor, clean. All of these symbols are likewise shadow pictures of Messiah, who is the ultimate restorer.

The dove represents the Holy Spirit resting upon Yeshua, the wood is a symbol of the cross, where Messiah was sacrificed, the earthen vessel is a symbol of Yeshua, the Word of Elohim made flesh; the living water, is a symbol of the Torah that was poured forth from Messiah, to bring life to all who would receive it; the scarlet is a worm that gives up it's life, so that its colour can be used to beautify clothing, which is a shadow picture of the covering of our heavenly Father over us, and is a symbol of Yeshua's surrendered meek and lowly heart (*Matthew 11:28*), and the blood He shed to redeem and restore us, and by the shedding of His blood, He became our covering. Therefore, in this particular ritual of the cleansing of a leper, we witness a shadow picture, that points us to the true offering, and our means of being **RESTORED** from our sins, our transgressions of the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, which kept us separated from Yahweh.

In *John 8:32* Messiah said: *And you shall know the **Truth**, and the **Truth** shall make you free;* and here in *verse 7* were are told that the living bird was set **free** in the open field, which is a picture of the evil heart being set free from its Sins.

In *verse 9* it says *But it shall be on the **seventh** day, that He shall shave all his hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also He shall wash his flesh in water, and He shall be clean.*

As you can see, even though the leprosy was gone, he still had to follow the prescribed manner of shaving all the hair off of his body, and then, wash himself with water, **BEFORE** he was declared **CLEAN**. This is a picture of Yahweh's completed plan of redemption unto salvation. The leper, who is a picture of a sinner, had to first repent of his sin, and then, he had to humble himself before Yahweh and then make a commitment to willingly choose to obey ALL of His Commandments, which meant, that he had to rid himself of all his covering, his hair, which represents his excuses, or his made up reasons for his sinful behaviour, and then, he had to allow himself to be washed by the water of the Word of Yahweh, before he was declared Tahor, cleansed.

The cleansing process does not stop there, for we are told what is to happen on the eighth day to complete the cleansing of the leper.

*Verse 10 And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of fine flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil. And the priest that makes him clean, shall present the man that is to be made clean, and those things, before Yahweh, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: And the priest shall take one he lamb, and offer him for a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering before Yahweh: And he shall slay the lamb in the place where he shall kill the Sin offering and the burnt offering, in the holy place: for as the Sin offering is the priest's, so too is the trespass offering: it is most holy: And the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it upon the tip of the **right ear** of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the **thumb of his right hand**, and upon the **great toe of his right foot**: And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and pour it into the palm of his own left hand: And the priest shall dip **his right finger** in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle of the oil with his finger **seven** times before Yahweh: And of the rest of the oil that is in his hand shall the priest put upon **the tip of the right ear** of him that is to be cleansed, and upon **the thumb of his right hand**, and upon **the great toe of his right foot**, upon the blood of the trespass offering: And the remnant of the oil that is in the priest's hand, he shall pour upon the head of him that is to be cleansed: and the priest shall make an atonement for him before Yahweh. And the priest shall offer the Sin offering, and make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed from his uncleanness; and afterward, he shall kill the burnt offering: And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the meat offering upon the altar: and the priest shall make an atonement for him, **AND HE SHALL BE CLEAN**.*

As you can see, it is quite an elaborate and involved process to have a leper cleansed from his disease, which is a metaphor for his sinful ways. What lesson are we to learn from this? By applying the blood and the oil to the **right ear** of the leper, it tells us that from now on, this converted sinner, this leper, willingly commits to *shemah* the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life. In other words, he commits, that he will hear, listen, pay very close attention to, understand, believe, follow, obey and **DO** all the Words of the Torah, the Commandments of Yahweh.

By applying the blood and the oil to **the thumb of the right hand** of the leper, it is a picture of the leper committing to consecrate all of the **deeds** that he does, from now on, unto Yahweh.

By applying the blood and the oil to the **right toe** of the leper, it is a picture of the leper surrendering **his walk, his way of life to** Yahweh himself, and choosing to walk in total loving submission to the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father.

Please keep in mind that Messiah **IS** the Living Torah made flesh, and when anyone willingly submits to believe and follow the Living Torah, they are submitting to following Messiah's life path example, His Torah obedient life, which He willingly chose to live while He was here on earth with us, a life that was totally surrendered to the Father, and the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Directives for everlasting Life, the Words of His Torah of Life. All of this ritual, is a picture of the leper cleansing his thoughts, his deeds, and his walk, and vowing to acknowledge Yahweh in every aspect of His life from that point on.

Now comes the moment of truth for us, Can we **SAY**, in our heart of hearts, that we have done that, that we have vowed to believe, follow and obey all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life? If we cannot claim that we have had our walk totally cleansed by the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, through the sacrifice of our Messiah, **THEN** maybe we should look for Tzara'at in our own lives. Amein!

Oil in the Scriptures represents the Holy Spirit and the Word of Yahweh, and here, in these *verses*, the oil that is poured on the leper's right ear, his right thumb and his right toe, is a picture of the Holy Spirit being given to the leper, given to this sinner, **TO CAUSE HIM** to walk out Yahweh's Judgments, Statutes and Laws (*Ezekiel 36:27*).

This part of the ritual, teaches and leads us to understand that yes, we are indeed cleansed by the blood of our Messiah, **but** the blood that Messiah shed **REPRESENTS** His Total Torah obedient Life that he willingly and lovingly lived while He was here on earth with us, and it is the very same Torah obedient Life, that He admonishes us to live, He wants us to mimic His Torah obedient Life. We are to live by the very same Spirit, that Messiah lives by, and that **IS**, the Holy Spirit of our heavenly Father. Without His Holy Spirit indwelling us, the process of purification and restoration is incomplete, because, Scripture tells us, that we are to worship the Father **IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH**. Thus, we learn that simply removing Sin, removing the transgressions of the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah, from our lives, **DOES NOT make us fit to be the manifestation of the image of Yahweh here on earth, or a light unto the nations of the world. WE MUST** have the Holy Spirit of Yahweh dwelling within us, and we **MUST** allow Him to cause us to believe, follow and obey the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life. We have to understand that **IT IS NOT** the lack of Sin in our lives that sanctifies us, **IT IS** the presence of the Holy Spirit of Living Elohim, and His Living Word, His Living Torah within us, and our willingness to allow Him to **CAUSE** us to obey the Words of the Torah of Mosheh, in the very same manner that our Messiah obeyed the Torah of Moses, **that sanctifies us**. Amein

There are five Aleph Tavs in this chapter.

*Verse 9 But it shall be on the seventh day, that he shall shave all his hair off his head and his beard and **Aleph Tav** his eyebrows, even all his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.*

*Verse 11 And the priest that makes him clean shall present **Aleph Tav** the man that is to be made clean, and those things, before Yahweh, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:*

*Verse 31 Even **Aleph Tav** such as he is able to get, the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, with the meat offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed before Yahweh.*

*Verse 45 And he shall break down the house, the stones of it, and the timber thereof, and **Aleph Tav** all the clay of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place.*

*Verse 51 And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and **Aleph Tav** the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird, and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times:*

There are also another fifty five Aleph Tavs that are attached to words with a Maqef, and thirty three words that contain both the Aleph and the Tav letters within them.

The number fifty five in Hebrew is stated as fifty and five, therefore we treat the numbers as separate. The number fifty speaks of the restoration of all things and the number five speaks of the Torah of Yahweh and His grace, for they are synonymous terms. The number thirty and three speaks of our Messiah who began His ministry at the age of thirty and ended His ministry here on earth when He was taken up into heaven in His thirty third year, and the number three in Scripture, represents death and resurrection, coming from death to life. I believe that Messiah is telling us through the use of these Aleph Tavs, that He **IS** the resurrected One, that will re-gather **ALL** of the children of Yisrael into one family, and give that Torah obedient family everlasting Life in the kingdom of Elohim, as a reward for their surrendered obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life with surrendered, contrite obedient hearts. Amein.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Shalom Alechem. Amein*