



## PARASHAT METZORA

פרשת מצורע

Leviticus 14:1-15:33

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)

- 14:1 Ritual Cleansing of a Person With a Sin-Caused Skin Disease
- 14:33 Tzaraas in a House
- 14:49 Purification of the House
- 15:1 Bodily Cleanliness

### Exploring This Week's Parashah

#### 1 Tzaraas as a Picture of the Sinful Condition of Man

In this lesson, we are going to continue our study from last week on the skin disease of tzaraas, which came on a person as a result of evil speaking, selfishness, greed, pride and sexual immorality. This disease of uncleanness is a picture of sin in general that has infected the whole human race, and like a cancer to our soul, will kill us forever unless we find the remedy to this sin problem. Somehow, man needs to be cleansed of this disease called sin, and then have a miraculous change of his heart and mind so that he won't sin any more.

Sin is similar to a hideous disease of the skin, or like a mold that infests houses and clothes. Once it gets inside of our hearts and our lives, it is ugly, is often visible for all to see, makes people avoid us, and can be very difficult to get rid of.

An Israelite who had tzaraas had to go before the priests and be inspected to see if he had the disease, and then be inspected again to see if the disease was gone. Once the priest determined that the disease was past, the priest would pronounce him clean whereupon the Israelite would have to bath himself and wash his clothes (Leviticus 13:3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 17, 20-21, etc.). The priest was involved at every step along the way from the initial identification of the disease, to working with the person to get rid of the disease, to being



certain that the person was properly cleansed after having received the “all clear” signal that the disease was past. What spiritual lessons can we learn from these strange diseases in the Torah? Let’s explore this subject to see how it relates to us as sin-overcomers and followers of Yeshua.

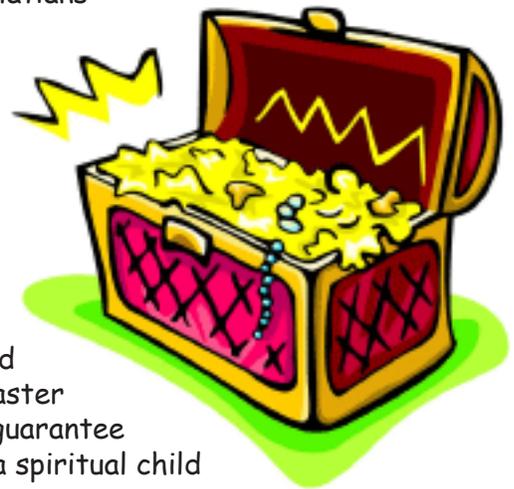


(a) Who is our heavenly High Priest who wants to help us to identify the sin in our lives, help us to overcome that sin, and help us to get clean and stay clean?



(b) Let’s discover how Yeshua does this for you and me.

- He washes away our sins by his blood that he shed on the cross (see Isaiah 1:18; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:11-15; 1Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 7:14).
- We must put our faith in Yeshua (read Romans 10:10-13).
- We must repent of our sins (breaking YHVH’s Torah commandments (look at Acts 2:38; 3:19; 1John 3:4).
- Just as the metzora (the diseased person) who had tzaraas (the skin disease) had to wash himself in water in order to be readmitted into the camp of Israel, so we must be baptized (immersed) in water for the remission (to be released from or forgiven) of our sins (look at Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-7; Colossians 2:12)
- After we have done these things, we can receive the Spirit of Elohim and become a brand new person in our hearts and minds because Yeshua is now living in us by his Spirit (see Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13).
- Yeshua’s Set-Apart Spirit will live in us and help us to do that which is pleasing to YHVH and strengthen us to resist the temptation to sin (read Romans 8:1-17).



Understanding these simple truths is like finding a buried treasure chest full of priceless gold and jewels. There is one big difference though. All the gold and treasure in the world will not buy you a place into YHVH’s spiritual and eternal (forever) kingdom, but knowing Yeshua as your Master and Savior, and living in a way that is pleasing to him will guarantee that you will have a place in Yeshua’s kingdom forever as a spiritual child of YHVH Elohim—your Father in heaven!!

## 2

### “I Spy Yeshua!” The Purification Ritual of a Metzora With Tzaraas (Leviticus 14:4-32)



(c) Read Leviticus 14:4-32 to see how many clues you can discover that point to Yeshua.

We’ll give you hints along the way with scriptures to look up that will give you the answers. The purpose of this exercise is to show you that all the ceremonies and rituals that were part of the sacrificial system prophetically pointed to Yeshua the Messiah, who fulfilled them all. This means that if we place our trusting faith in him, we no longer have to do the laborious and involved rituals that our ancient forefathers had to do in order to atone for their sins—we simply have to believe in, love, follow and obey Yeshua.

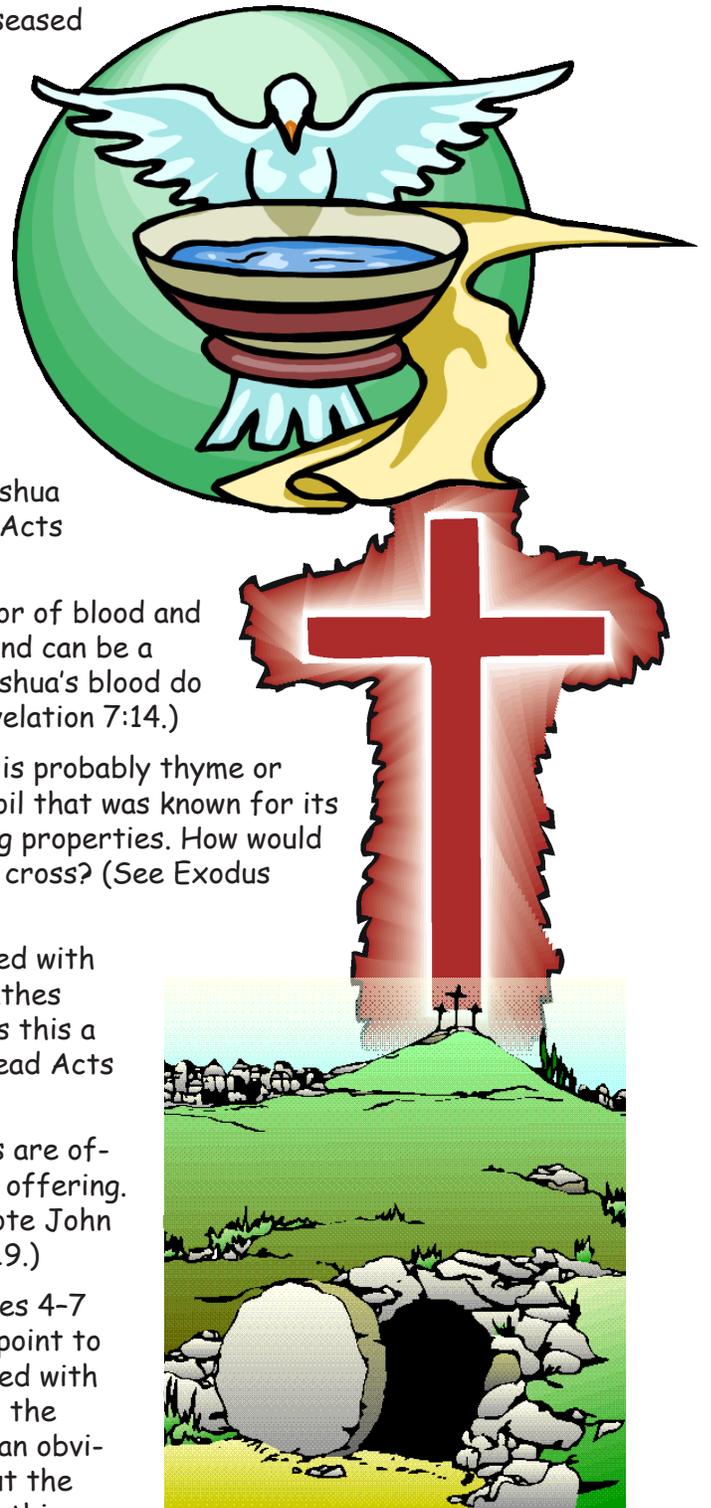
Now let’s look at the ritual for cleansing a metzora (one with a skin disease—a picture of the sinfulness of you and me) who had tzaraas (a skin disease caused by sinfulness).



(d) Verses 4-7, **two birds**: One bird is killed in a clay pot over running water. The other bird along with the cedar wood, scarlet cloth and hyssop are dipped into the clay pot containing the blood from the killed bird and the running water. The water-blood

mixture is then sprinkled on the diseased person (metzora) who is being purified, and the living bird is let loose and allowed to fly away. There is a lot going on here, but it all prophetically pointed to Yeshua's death, burial and resurrection. Before figuring out how everything points to Yeshua, perhaps it would help to understand the spiritual meaning of the wood, scarlet and hyssop, which we will explain next.

- (e) Verse 4, **cedar wood**: What was Yeshua crucified on? (Read John 19:17-18; Acts 5:30.)
- (f) Verse 4, **scarlet**: Scarlet is the color of blood and in the Bible is a symbol for blood, and can be a picture of sin, as well. What did Yeshua's blood do for our sins? (Read Isaiah 1:18; Revelation 7:14.)
- (g) Verse 4, **hyssop**: Hyssop (in reality is probably thyme or oregano) represented an essential oil that was known for its healing, cleansing and disease-killing properties. How would this point to Yeshua's death on the cross? (See Exodus 12:22; Psalm 51:7; John 19:29.)
- (h) Verses 7-8, The metzora is sprinkled with the water and blood mixture, he bathes and his clothes are washed. What is this a picture of in the believer's life? (Read Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-6.)
- (i) Verses 10-32, Three yearling lambs are offered for a trespass, sin and burnt offering. How does this point to Yeshua? (Note John 1:29,36; Revelation 13:8; 1Peter 1:19.)
- (j) Now let's take another look at verses 4-7 and the two birds to see how they point to Yeshua. The one bird being sacrificed with his blood being sprinkled as part of the cleansing process for the sinner is an obvious picture of what? But what about the bird that was let loose? What does this picture? Imagine letting a live bird loose out of your hands. He would immediately fly away, right? If the birds represent Yeshua, and the killed bird represents his death on the cross, then what does the live bird flying away represent? (Read Acts 3:15; 4:10; 1Peter 1:3.)
- (k) What does the blood of the bird in verse 6 represent? How does it point to Yeshua? (Read Leviticus 17:11; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; 1Peter 1:18-19; 1John 1:7; Revelation 7:14).



-  (l) What does the clay pot in verse 5 represent? How does this point to Yeshua? (Look at Genesis 2:7; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 5:1.)
-  (m) What does the running or living water in verse 5 represent? (See Ephesians 5:26.) Who is the Word of Elohim? (Read John 1:1-14.) Who is the sources of spiritual living water? (Read John 4:10-14; 7:37-39.)

So now let's connect the dots to form the complete picture. We have before us a picture of a clay pot filled with living water, into which is poured blood from a sacrificed bird. Into all that is dipped hyssop, a piece of wood and some scarlet cloth. This is a perfect picture of Yeshua whose physical body (represented by the clay pot) was put to death on the cross and how that death atoned for our sins. But though Yeshua died on the cross, he did not stay dead, but resurrected out of the grave three days later and returned to his Father in heaven. This is pictured by the bird that was let loose to fly away.

This was such a simple ceremony, described in a few short verses in Leviticus 14, yet when you look carefully at it, do you notice how rich in meaning it is? Thankfully, we have the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament), which teach us about the death, burial and resurrection of Yeshua, to help us to understand and interpret the meaning of this otherwise mysterious cleansing ritual!

