

# Parashat Tazria

## פרשת תזריע

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## Did Yeshua have to say “I am the Messiah?”

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Leviticus 12:1-13:59

הפטרה: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

הברית: Luke 10-11

החדשה

*Triennial cycle: Vayikra / Leviticus 12:1-13:39*

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This week's portion contains the mitzvot (Commandments) on the law of Tsaraat (leprosy). The name Leprosy comes from the Greek “Lepra” (λέπρα) that characterized the disease by ulcerations that appear on the skin as scales. The regulation connected to the commandment is found in *Vayikra 13 and 14*, and *Bamidbar / Numbers 12*. In the Scriptures', this disease was regarded as a direct infliction by God (see *Melachim bet / 2 Kings 5:7 and Divrei Hayyamim bet / 2 Chronicles 26:20*) the disease was regarded as an awful punishment from the Lord. The disease eats the inward parts, the bones, swelling of the skin, sores, the whole body is rotting and in Yeshua's day this was considered death sentence. The leper was to rent his own cloths in lamentation of his own approaching death and cry out “Unclean! Unclean!” when passers-by came near to keep them away. In those days, it was only God who could heal a leper. When Yeshua healed ten lepers, was it necessary for him to say “I am the Messiah” in addition to the miracle of healing?

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### ויקרא 13:1-3

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: אָדָם כִּי־יִהְיֶה בְּעוֹר־בְּשָׂרוֹ שְׂאֵת אוֹר־סַפְחַת אוֹ בְּהִרְתּוֹ וְהָיָה בְּעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ לִנְגַע צָרַעַת וְהוֹבִיֵּא אֶל־אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן אוֹ אֶל־אֶחָד מִבְּנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים: וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן אֶת־הַנֶּגַע בְּעוֹר־הַבָּשָׂר וְשֹׁעַר הַנֶּגַע הַפֶּה לָבָן וּמִרְאֵה הַנֶּגַע עֲמֹק מִעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ נִגַע צָרַעַת הוּא וְרָאָהוּ הַכֹּהֵן וְטָמֵא אֹתוֹ:

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Yeshua healed lepers in *Matthew 8:2-3*, in *Mark 1:40-42*, and in *Luke 17:11-19*. In *Luke 17:11-9*, Yeshua was on his way to Jerusalem passing between Samaria and Galilee and met 10 lepers. Yeshua told the lepers to go and show themselves to the priests and as they went they were healed, cleansed of the disease.

#### Vayikra / Leviticus 13:1-3

13:1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 13:2 ‘When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling or a scab or a bright spot, and it becomes an infection of leprosy on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. 13:3 ‘The priest shall look at the mark on the skin of the body, and if the hair in the infection has turned white and the infection appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is an infection of leprosy; when the priest has looked at him, he shall pronounce him unclean. (NASB)

## ΚΑΤΑ ΛΟΥΚΑΝ 17:11-19

11 πεποιήκαμεν . και ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ πορεύεσθαι αὐτὸν εἰς ἱερουσα-  
λήμ και αὐτὸς διήρχετο διὰ μέσου σαμαρείας και γαλιλαίας .  
12 και εἰσερχομένου αὐτοῦ εἰς τινα κώμην ἀπήντησαν αὐτῷ δέκα  
13 λεπροὶ ἄνδρες οἱ ἔστησαν πόρρωθεν . και αὐτοὶ ἤραν φωνὴν  
14 λέγοντες ἰησοῦ ἐπιστάτα ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς . και ἰδὼν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς  
πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε ἑαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσιν και ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ  
15 ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς ἐκαθαρίσθησαν . εἰς δὲ ἕξ αὐτῶν ἰδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη  
16 ὑπέστρεψεν μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν θεόν . και ἔπε-  
σεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον παρά τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ εὐχαριστῶν αὐτῷ  
17 και αὐτὸς ἦν σαμαρείτης . ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἰησοῦς εἶπεν οὐχὶ  
18 οἱ δέκα ἐκαθαρίσθησαν οἱ δὲ ἑννέα ποῦ . οὐχ εὐρέθησαν ὑπο-  
19 στρέψαντες δοῦναι δόξαν τῷ θεῷ εἰ μὴ ὁ ἄλλογενὴς οὗτος . και  
20 εἶπεν αὐτῷ ἀναστὰς πορεύου ἢ πίστις σου σέσωκέν σε . ἐπερω-

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Now it is particularly interesting that Yeshua commands the lepers to go and show themselves to the priests. While going to the priests, they are healed and being cleansed from the disease they will undergo the ritual cleansing as described in the Torah. Before the leper is reintegrated into the community of believers, he must undergo various rituals that involves cleansing and purification through the ashes of the Red Heifer (see *Bamidbar / Numbers 19*). The ritual of cleansing occurs outside the camp involving the sprinkling of blood, cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet thread followed by a seven day cleansing period. The person then goes through the ritual of purification and is anointed in similar fashion as the priest, like Aharon and his sons; blood is put on the right earlobe, the right thumb, and the right big toe. Aharon and his sons were anointed with oil on the head, the ear, thumb, and toe. Both are anointed with oil.

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Now it is important to understand that the person who is quarantined outside of the camp, he is not allowed to enter into the city of Jerusalem, therefore he cannot notify the priest himself, he must request for a priest by sending word for the priest to come outside and meet him outside the city. According to the Tanach, only God can heal a person from Tsaraat (leprosy). In the Talmud it is written, “*when will the Messiah come?*” and “*By what sign may I recognize him?*” Elijah tells the rabbi to go to the gate of the city where he will find the Messiah sitting among the poor lepers (*Talmud Bavli Sanhedrin 98a*). “*The Messiah – what is his name? ... The sages say, the Leper Scholar, as it is said, ‘surely he has borne our grief’s and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him a leper, smitten of God and afflicted ...’*” (*Talmud Bavli Sanhedrin 98b*). It is highly likely the Chief priests and elders in Yeshua’s day knew of these sayings in the first century. It is apparent that the lawyers and leaders in Yeshua’s day were unwilling to unify the various messianic prophecies in the Tanach and refused to recognize the prophecies concerning the one Messiah. For example, the words Isaiah spoke about the Messiah in *Isaiah 53:3-6*:

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### Luke 17:11-19

17:11 While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. 17:12 As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; 17:13 and they raised their voices, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ 17:14 When He saw them, He said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they were going, they were cleansed. 17:15 Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, 17:16 and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, ‘Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine where are they? 17:18 ‘Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?’ 17:19 And He said to him, ‘Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.’ (NASB)

## ישעיה 53:3-6

3 וְנִרְאָהוּ וְלֹא-מֵרֵאָה וְנִחְמָדָהוּ: נְבוֹה וְחָדַל אִישִׁים אִישׁ  
 מִכְּאֲבוֹת וַיְדוּעַ חָלִי וּכְמִסְתֵּר פָּנִים מִמֶּנּוּ נְבוֹה וְלֹא  
 4 חֲשַׁבְנָהוּ: אֲכֹן חָלִינוּ הוּא נָשָׂא וּמִכְּאֲבֵינוּ סָבַלָם  
 5 וְאַנְהוּ חֲשַׁבְנָהוּ נָנוּעַ מִפְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים וּמֵעֲנָה: וְהוּא מִחֲלָל  
 מִפְּשָׁעֵינוּ מִדָּכָא מֵעֲוֹנֹתֵינוּ מוֹסֵר שְׁלוֹמֵנוּ עָלָיו וּבְחִכְרֹתוֹ  
 6 נִרְפָּא-לָנוּ: כָּלֵנוּ כִּצְאָן תָּעִינוּ אִישׁ לְדַרְכּוֹ פָּנֵינוּ וַיְדוּהָ  
 7 הַפְּגִיעַ בּוֹ אֶת עֵזְרָת עֲוֹנוֹ: נִגְשׁ וְהוּא נִעְנָה וְלֹא יִפְתָּח־פִּי

70 The Messiah would be a man of pains, acquainted with sickness, carrying our sicknesses, born of our pains, plagued, smitten of God, pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, the discipline of our peace was upon him, and the Lord attached in him the iniquity of us all. Yeshua provided forgiveness and made us free from the power of sin and death.

75 Yeshua we are no longer lepers or outcasts from the community of God but are made clean through his blood. Yeshua spoke with greater authority than Moshe (*Matthew 5:21-48*), and it was only God and His Messiah Yeshua that could take away our Tsaraat (Sin) by becoming sin himself by laying down his life for ours, the “just” for the “unjust” that He would make us acceptable before the Lord.

80 So the real question is, “Yeshua did not have to say ‘I am the Messiah?’” The answer to that question is “NO!” because the miracle in itself, the healing of Tsaraat, Yeshua proclaimed by his actions that He was and is the Messiah.

**Be Blessed in Yeshua, Christ our Messiah!**

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הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:  
 Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
 “Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever

### Isaiah 53:3-6

53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. (NASB)