

# מִצְרָע

## M'tzora

(leper)

### Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 14:1-15:33

#### Be Ye Separate

##### *Vayyiqra (Vayyiqra) 15:31*

***“Thus you shall keep the sons of Israel separated from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by their defiling My tabernacle that is among them.”***

The key to understanding all the Torah instructions concerning the various ways in which a person can become unclean and the need to then be separated from the rest of the camp is found right here in this verse. If a person were unclean and were to go into the tabernacle of YHWH in that unclean state, then it would displease YHWH and that person would die. There is no need for this to happen as YHWH does not want His people to die, but rather YHWH desires for us to choose life and live.

This very idea of being unclean is completely foreign to Babylon and Babylonian ways. There is no regard given to one being unclean or being in an unclean state. In Babylon one does pretty much whatever one desires to do whenever he desires to do it regardless of his present state of cleanliness. However, this is not pleasing to YHWH! YHWH specifically teaches us what makes a person unclean (tamei) and then how to go about returning back to a state of being clean (tahor).

In the history of the nation of Israel, she has not obeyed these particular instructions very well. Notice what Yeshayah says concerning himself and the nation of Israel in his day.

##### *Yeshayah (Isaiah) 6:5*

***Then I said, “Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, YHWH Tzava’ot.”***

Yeshayah knew that he was in some serious trouble because he had entered into the presence of YHWH Tzava’ot in an unclean state. He knew that his life was in jeopardy. Yeshayah also knew that the people of the nation were also in that same predicament. But YHWH Himself took care of the problem of uncleanness in Yeshayah.

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 6:6-7***

***6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar;***

***7 and he touched my mouth with it, and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin forgiven."***

After Yeshayah had been cleansed, please notice what YHWH tells Yeshayah.

***Yeshayah (Isaiah) 6:8-10***

***8 And I heard the Voice of YHWH, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I; send me."***

***9 And he said, "Go, and tell this people, 'You hear, but do not understand; and you see, but do not perceive.***

***10 This makes the heart of this people insensitive, and makes their ears dull, and they shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn again, and be healed.'"***

YHWH sends Yeshayah with a message to His people Israel. The message consists of telling the people that they have shut up their ears and eyes to hearing and obeying His Voice. If the people would hear and obey His Voice and return to Him, then they would be healed. But the very fact that they have shut up their ears from hearing and their eyes from seeing prevents them from returning to YHWH for healing.

What makes this message so pointed is that Mashiach Yeshua quotes this very passage in teaching His talmidim when they asked Him why He taught the people in parables.

***Matithyah (Matthew) 13:13-15***

***13 "Therefore speak I to them in parables; because seeing they see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.***

***14 And to them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says,  
'By hearing shall you hear, and shall in no wise understand;  
And seeing you shall see, and shall in no wise perceive;***

***15 For this people's heart is become dull,  
And their ears are dull of hearing,  
And their eyes they have closed;  
Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes,  
And hear with their ears,  
And understand with their heart,  
And should turn again,  
And I should heal them."***

It is important for us to note that one of the central truths about this prophecy and its fulfillment is that it was because of a personal choice on the part of the individual to close his eyes that Yeshayah included himself in with those who hear but do not understand and with those who see but do not perceive. But as Mashiach goes on to teach them, they are not included in this group of people because they do understand and they do perceive, therefore, they are blessed.

Part of understanding what YHWH has said is dealing with His instructions concerning uncleanness. He desires for us to be clean. If a person does not desire to be clean, then what is there that YHWH can do? He will not force someone to be clean and to be a part of His people. He is looking for those whose heart is truly towards Him in all matters, great and small. This is not to say that when a person becomes unclean in the natural course of a day that he stops being a part of YHWH's people. Rather, it means that he is in need of cleansing and should recognize this truth and respond accordingly to be cleansed.

***Yeshayah (Isaiah)64:6***

***For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousness is as a used menstrual cloth; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.***

Because of the sin of our fathers in not hearing and obeying His Voice in the manner that brings life, but rather pursued what was right in their own eyes, and taught us to do the same thing to help justify their own sinful lives and actions against YHWH Tzava'ot, we have all found ourselves in this predicament. Our own righteousness is pathetic and seriously lacking! YHWH likens our righteousness to that of a bloody menstrual cloth. That's pretty disgusting! But that is what YHWH sees when He looks upon our works of righteousness.

In order for us to be cleansed of all this filthiness, first we need to agree with YHWH that we are indeed in need of His help and mercy. We need to be cleansed. But we cannot do it ourselves. We need for Him to do it, just like He did it for Yeshayah. This is exactly where Mashiach comes into the picture. He came to provide the means for us to be forgiven of all our sins and to be cleansed of all our unrighteousness.

***Yochanan Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> John) 1:9***

***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

Our problem today is that we have been taught virtually nothing concerning these instructions dealing with uncleanness. As a result we live in uncleanness every day. Look at what YHWH says concerning Ephrayim.

***Hoshea 9:3***

***They shall not dwell in YHWH's land; but Ephrayim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.***

This is exactly where we find ourselves today. We are in the land of Assyria (metaphorically speaking) and we as descendants of the ten tribes of the north grew up eating unclean things.

***Hoshea 9:17***

***My Elohim will cast them away, because they did not hearken to Him; and they shall be wanderers among the nations.***

The reason stated in the above passage as to why YHWH will cause Ephrayim to be dispersed among the nations of the world is because they refused to hear and obey His Voice. It therefore follows that if we are truly going to return to YHWH, then we need to learn how to hear and obey His Voice!

***Hoshea 11:10***

***They shall walk after YHWH, who will roar like a lion; for He will roar, and the children shall come trembling from the west.***

Again, speaking about Ephrayim, YHWH tells us through the prophet Hoshea that He will roar like a lion and the children of Ephrayim will come trembling from the west (western culture). Why trembling? Could it be that we will come trembling because we realize that we are not worthy and we have been living with the uncleanness of the nations for generations? Surely this and much more!

***Hoshea 12:6***

***Therefore turn to your Elohim; keep kindness and justice, and wait for your Elohim continually.***

To wait upon YHWH our Elohim means that we are listening for the sound of His Voice so that we might obey Him as soon as He speaks to us. Do you live your life in a listening mode?

***Hoshea 14:9***

***Who is wise, that he may understand these things? Prudent, that he may know them? For the ways of YHWH are right, and the just shall walk in them; but transgressors shall fall therein.***

If we are going to show wisdom in our lives and by the way we live, then we had better get with His instructions and obey His commandments, ordinances, statutes and judgments and especially hear and obey His Voice. If a person does not hear and obey His Voice, then he is missing it! How can one have a relationship with YHWH Tzava'ot if he cannot or does not hear His Voice? And if one does not hear His Voice, then how can one obey His Voice? He cannot!

Understand that we are not obeying His commandments or His Voice to earn salvation; rather, we are obeying His commandments and obeying His Voice because He has already saved us, and the result is that we love Him so dearly for the blessed gift of life that He has already bestowed upon us that we desire to do all that we can to please Him!

One of those ways in which we desire to please Him is to be clean!

**Qorintyah Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians) 6:17**

***“Therefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,” says YHWH,  
And touch no unclean thing;  
And I will receive you,”***

Are we listening to what YHWH is saying to us today?

Are we hearing what YHWH is saying to us today?

Or, have our personal choices made our hearts dull so that we lack understanding?

ABBA YHWH, open our ears and that we may hear and open our eyes that we may see, that we may hear and obey Your Voice in all things; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

[zerubbabel@onetorahforall.com](mailto:zerubbabel@onetorahforall.com)

[www.onetorahforall.com](http://www.onetorahforall.com)