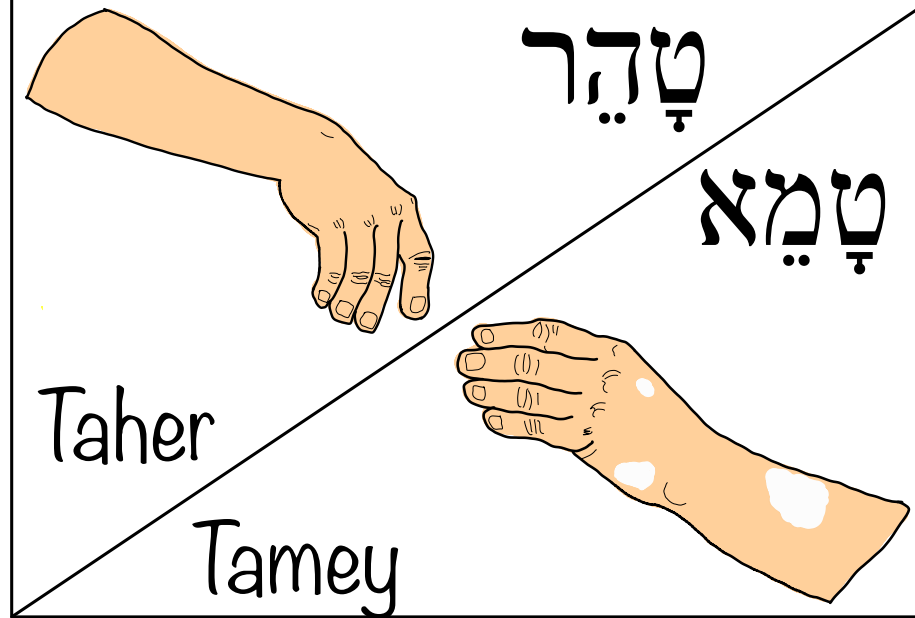


Tazriah תַּזְרִיעַ

“She bears seed”



When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting.
Leviticus 12:6

Leviticus 12:1-13:59

In the first chapter of this week’s Parasha we learn about purification from impurity following the birth of a child. Since the time of man’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden, all humans have been born in a state of sin or impurity. Blood is shed at birth as a means of purification. This bloodshed also reminds us of God’s judgement of sin.

In the second chapter of this week’s Parasha we are introduced to the condition of tzara’at (צָרַעַת) or what is commonly translated as leprosy. Even though they are called by the same name, the disease of leprosy present in the world today is not the same as Biblical tzara’at that existed during the Tabernacle and Temple periods.

Pray First

Father God,

Thank You for purifying us from our sins when we admit them to ourselves and humbly confess them to You. Please show us daily any part of our thoughts or speech that do not honor You. Help us want nothing more than to live in a way that would bring glory to Your name and Your Kingdom.

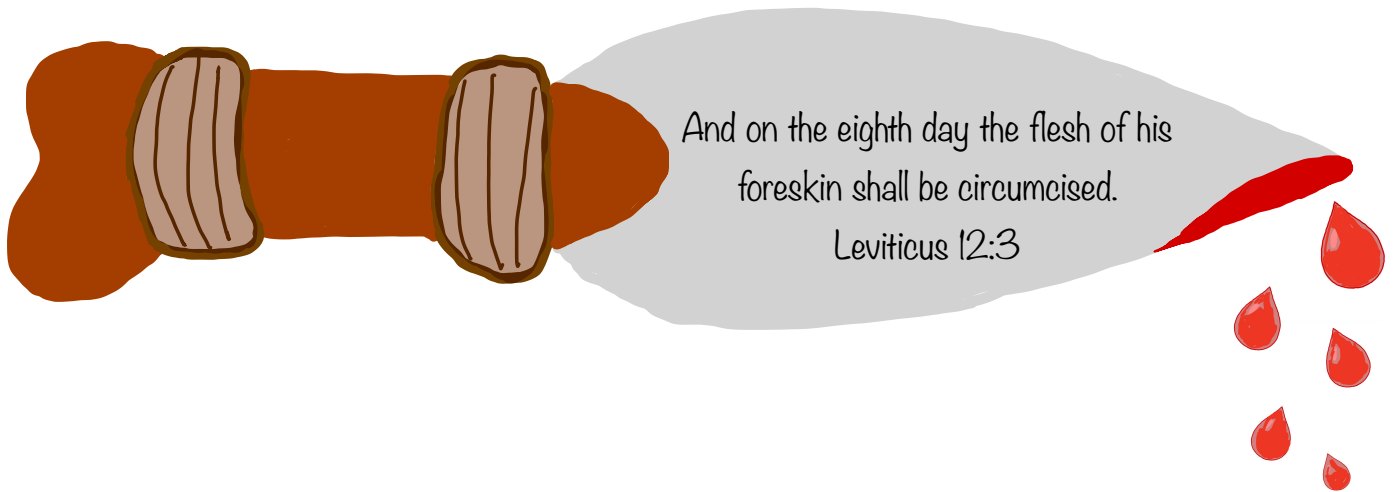
In Yeshua’s Name we pray.
Amen.

Read Next

Leviticus 12:1-13:59

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Leviticus 12:1-8

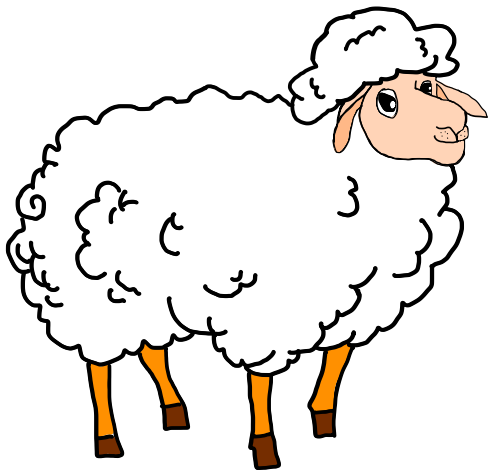


And on the eighth day the flesh of his
foreskin shall be circumcised.

Leviticus 12:3

When we read Leviticus 12:1-3 we must remind ourselves that the penalty for sin is death. Adam, the first man God created, disobeyed God by eating of the tree which God commanded him not to eat. God judged the sin of Adam justly as He had stated, “but of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17). As the result of Adam’s sin, all flesh must die. The life of the flesh, or body, is in the blood. Blood sustains all flesh so that it can live until it dies.

Through God’s mercy and grace, He established a covenant with Avraham (Abraham), allowing the blood of animals sacrificed upon the altar to make atonement for a man’s soul. The atoning blood covered the life of the soul after the flesh died. The soul then waited for its redemption in a place known as Avraham’s Bosom or Paradise. The sign of the Avrahamic Covenant, or Old Covenant, was the covenant of circumcision. When circumcision is performed, blood is shed, and the flesh that is cut off the body dies.



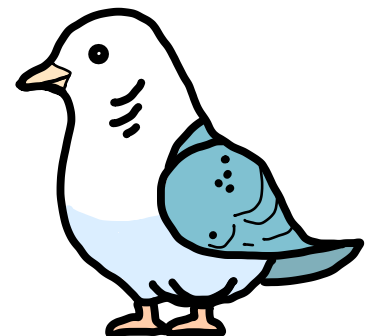
In Leviticus 12:1-3 we learn that God commanded all those who had been redeemed from bondage in Egypt by the blood of the lamb to circumcise their sons on the eighth day after birth.

Circumcision demonstrates that death of the flesh must occur before new life can be given.

Remember, the number eight in the Bible refers to the Kingdom of God, new beginnings or new life.

As we continue to read Leviticus 12:4-8 we learn more about the significance of blood for purification. In the Tabernacle and Temple periods God commanded the mother to give offerings to Him after giving birth. Although the offerings were the same for a male and female child, the time periods preceding these offerings were different.

Following the birth of a child a lamb was to be given as a burnt offering or an elevation offering to demonstrate the mother’s desire to exalt the Name of God. A young pigeon or turtle dove was to be given as a sin offering. This expressed a desire to seek forgiveness for any unintentional sins of the mother during her time of purification. The differing amounts of time given to the mother for this process were set by God and acted as an atonement period for the mother to recuperate from giving birth to her child.



~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Leviticus 13:1-9

When the leprous sore is on a person, then he shall be brought to the priest.
Leviticus 13:9

This focus passage of Scripture teaches us about the skin condition of tzara'at, or leprosy. Leprosy was given to people by God because of their sinful thoughts or speech that came from an unclean heart. The heart affects the entire body. If the heart is unclean by not submitting to the will of God, it can lead to unclean thoughts and/or speech. These evil thoughts and words are rooted in pride and begin because of a lack of trust in God. Pride leads us to elevate ourselves above God or others.

Only God knows the thoughts of a man and has the power to discipline him by giving him the disease of leprosy. Only God has the power and authority to cleanse a man and take the disease of leprosy away.

In Leviticus 13:1-9 we learn that an inspection by the priest determined if tzara'at was present. If leprosy was present, the priest would pronounce the person to be unclean. If the person examined had some symptoms of leprosy but did not meet all the criteria for the disease, the priest would isolate them for a period of seven days. On the seventh day the priest would examine the person again. If the symptoms persisted but remained unchanged, the priest would isolate him another seven days. Remember, the number seven means set apart for a purpose. On the fourteenth day the priest would reexamine the person for cleansing. If the person's sore had darkened and not spread on the skin, the priest would pronounce him to be free of leprosy. The person would then wash his clothes and be clean. If, however, when the person was reexamined for cleansing and the scab of the sore had spread at all over the skin, the priest would diagnose him with leprosy and pronounce him to be unclean.



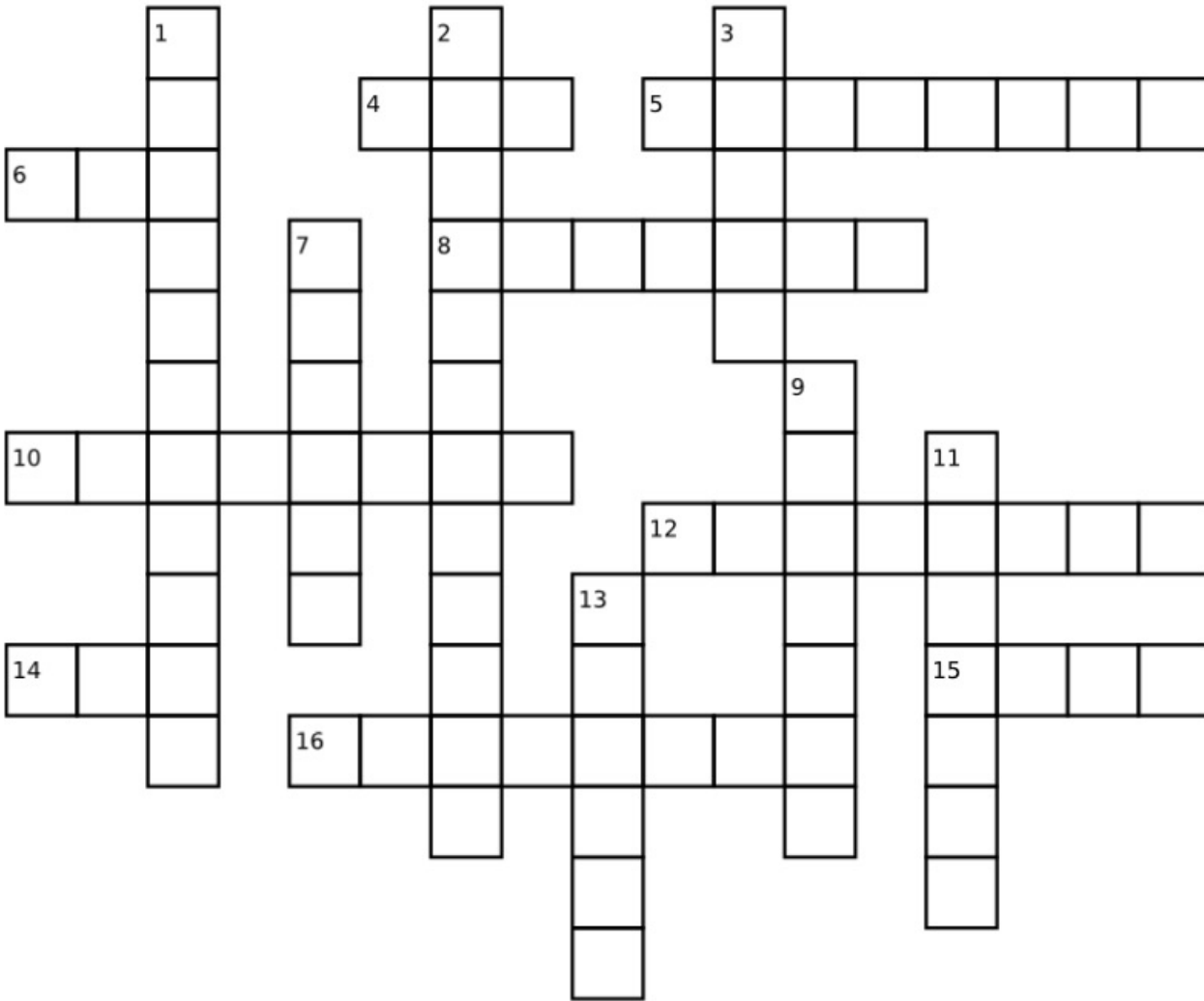
The criteria to diagnose leprosy was set by God. The careful examination of the priest resulted in a status of clean (טָהוֹר - **taher**) or unclean (טָמֵא - **tamey**). If the disease existed, the person was unclean. If the disease was not present or had been taken away by God, the person was clean.

When the person with leprosy was taken to the priest for examination, he had the opportunity to admit his sin and confess his prideful thoughts or speech to God through the priest. A seven day period between examinations gave the person time to humbly repent, adjusting his behavior, so that God would be willing to forgive and cleanse him of the sin he had committed in his heart. Failure of the person to repent and seek forgiveness during this process resulted in being pronounced unclean and cast away from the presence of God and His people.



Recap Review Fun

Directions: Using the word bank, complete the crossword puzzle.



Word Bank

Redeemed
 Leprosy
 Lamb
 Thoughts
 Seven
 Die
 Presence
 Sin
 Old Covenant
 Repented
 Confess
 God
 Eighth
 Priest
 Circumcision
 Unclean

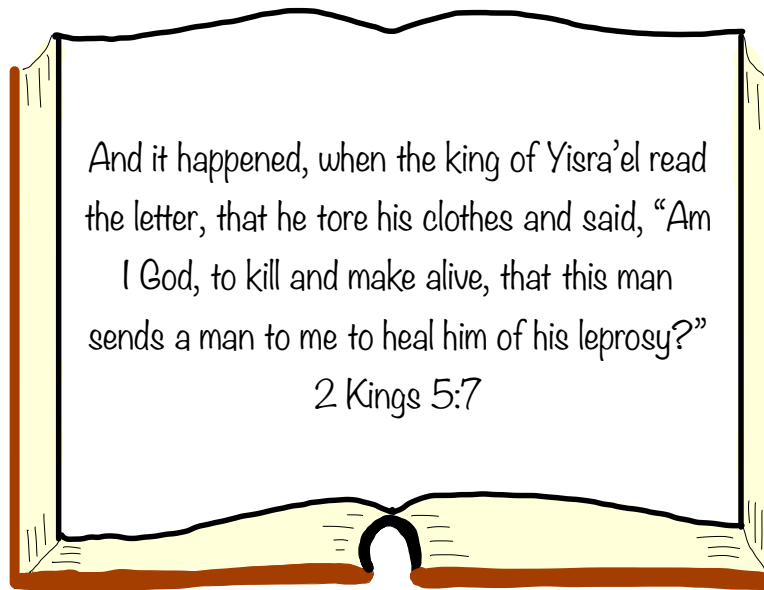
Across:

4. As the result of Adam's sin, all flesh must _____.
5. The soul of a believer who died waited to be _____ in a place called Avraham's Bosom.
6. Only _____ can give and take away leprosy.
8. The person with leprosy needed to _____ his sin to the priest.
10. Failure to repent of sin that caused the leprosy resulted in the person remaining unclean and being cast away from the _____ of God and man.
12. If the person with leprosy _____ of his sins, God would heal him.
14. The mother was commanded to give a pigeon or turtledove as a _____ offering following the birth of a child.
15. The mother was commanded to give a _____ as a burnt offering following the birth of a child.
16. Leprosy is the result of sinful _____ or speech that persists.

Down:

1. God established a covenant with Avraham that is often called the _____.
2. The sign of the Old Covenant was _____.
3. The person with leprosy would be reexamined following a _____ day period.
7. Only the _____ determined if leprosy was present.
9. Tzara'at is commonly translated _____.
11. If a person was infected with leprosy, he was pronounced to be _____.
13. All males were to be circumcised on the _____ day after birth.

~ Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:42-5:19 ~



In today's Haftarah we learn that Naaman, a Gentile and commander of the Syrian army, had leprosy. Although the LORD had given Naaman great victory in Syria and he was a mighty man of valor, no one could cure him of this dreadful disease. Remember, it is God alone Who afflicts someone with leprosy due to a prideful heart, and it is only God Who can take it away.

The Syrians had gone out on raids and brought back a young Yisra'eli girl to serve Naaman's wife. One day this young girl suggested to her mistress that her husband might be healed by the LORD through the prophet Elisha in Yisra'el. Naaman listened to the words of the girl and spoke them to his master, the King of Syria. The King of Syria wrote a letter to the King of Yisra'el, and Naaman traveled to the land of Yisra'el with great riches to pay the King to heal him. When the King of Yisra'el read the letter, he was afraid and tore his clothes. He knew no one had the power to cure leprosy except the God of Yisra'el. He suspected the King of Syria would start a quarrel with him when he was unable to heal Naaman.

When Elisha heard that the King of Yisra'el had torn his clothes, he sent word to the King, asking him to send Naaman to his house. Elisha knew that God had the power to heal all people and would heal Naaman if he followed God's instructions to be cleansed from his sin. When Naaman arrived at Elisha's house with all his aides, horses, chariots and riches, Elisha did not even go out to meet him. Instead, he sent a messenger out to give Naaman the instructions from God for his healing. The messenger told Naaman that he was to go to the Jordan River and wash himself seven times to be healed. Remember, the number seven in the Bible means set apart for a purpose.

These instructions made Naaman furious because he imagined in his heart that Elisha would come out to meet him and stand before him, calling on the name of the LORD his God. Naaman thought highly of himself and felt that he deserved special treatment. He expected Elisha to dramatically wave his hand over him to heal the leprosy. He complained arrogantly with evil speech about the rivers in Syria being superior to the water in Yisra'el. He turned pridefully and went away in a rage. Naaman would not be healed of his leprosy until he humbly relied upon and submitted to the instructions of God.

Naaman's servants spoke reason to him saying that if Elisha had given him something difficult to do in order to be clean from leprosy, he would have done it. They expressed to him that these instructions were very easy to follow. All he had to do was submit and obey them. Naaman decided to take the advice of his aides. He went down to the Jordan River and dipped seven times in the water. Miraculously, Naaman's flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was cleansed by God of his leprosy.

After Naaman was healed, he proclaimed that there is no God in all the earth except the God of Yisra'el. He tried to pay Elisha for his service, but Elisha would not accept any form of payment. Elisha knew that only God deserved all glory, honor and praise for making what was unclean clean. Elisha knew to be healed by God Naaman had to admit he needed cleansing, submit to the authority of the only One with the power to cleanse him and obey His instructions.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Yisra'el; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

2 Kings 5:15

7

Haftarah Review Fun

Naaman needed to follow seven steps before washing in the water seven times.


Directions: Identify the correct steps and put them in the correct order to help Naaman. Put the corresponding letter in order in the blanks below.

- S. Go to the Jordan River
- R. Hear the instructions of God through the Prophet Elisha
- E. Immerse seven times in the Jordan River as instructed
- P. Listen to the testimony of the young Yisra'eli girl about the power of God
- P. Repent from his prideful heart
- U. Admit he needed help from God
- O. Submit to the instructions

In the Bible the number 7 means:

set apart for a _____

~ New Testament: Matthew 8:1-4 ~



And behold, a leper came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

Matthew 8:2

In this week's New Testament Scripture Yeshua (Jesus) had just come down from the mountain where He had spent time teaching His disciples. Great multitudes followed Him, and a leper came and worshipped Him. The leper worshipped Yeshua because he understood that He was the Messiah, the Son of God. This leper expressed faith in Yeshua when he stated that He could make him clean if He was willing. The leper knew that Yeshua had the authority to forgive his sin and cleanse him.

Because Yeshua is the divine Son of God, He knows the thoughts of man. He has the power to forgive sin and make the unclean clean. Yeshua knew the leper had repented of his sin and was seeking forgiveness by submitting to and trusting in His authority to cleanse him.



Then Yeshua put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed."

Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Matthew 8:3

Yeshua then instructed the man to tell no one what He had done for him. He told him to go and show himself to the priest and to offer the gift that Moshe (Moses) had commanded as a testimony to the world.

Yeshua would later give up His life for the ransom of souls. He suffered the curse of death on the tree for the sins of the world. His blood, shed on the cross, is superior to the atoning blood of animals. Yeshua's blood was given on the altar to redeem a man's soul.

After Yeshua died and was resurrected by God on the third day, all the souls waiting for redemption in Avraham's Bosom were released from Sheol and ascended to heaven with Him. Even though the flesh must die because it is unclean, the soul can be redeemed by the precious blood of Yeshua.

Yeshua accomplished the work of redemption by shedding His blood to put the sin of the flesh to death. The soul of anyone who humbly relies on His work of redemption will immediately be with Him in heaven when their body dies. Whoever repents of their sin will be made clean by Him. These are the instructions given by God that one must follow to be cleansed and never be cast away from His presence. The one who follows these instructions enters into a New Covenant with God. There is no other way to be healed from the uncleanness of our sin except by the blood of Messiah Yeshua. The blood of Yeshua has the power to purify those redeemed by it, making them a new creature with a Kingdom future.

New Testament Review Fun

Directions: Put the following words in the appropriate column.

New Covenant

Old Covenant

Circumcision

Blood of animals

Blood of Yeshua

Redemption

Kingdom

Heaven

Atonement

Avraham's Bosom