

# Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

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**Message 4-25-09**  
**Tazia-She Bears Seed**  
**Leviticus 12:1-13:59**  
**2 Kings 4:42-5:19**

**Metsora-Infected One**  
**Leviticus 14:1-15:33**  
**2 Kings 7:3-20**  
**Matthew 14:16-21**

## **Introduction**

The portion Tazia discusses diseases of the skin and the manner in which the priest was to examine and treat a person with such afflictions. The portion Metzora continues the theme that began in the previous portion of cleansing a person from an affliction of the skin, and carries on with a ritual for cleansing an afflicted house.

## **Leviticus 14:34-45**

**30** `Then the priest shall offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for her before the LORD for the discharge of her uncleanness. **31** `Thus you shall separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness when they defile My tabernacle that is among them. **32** `This is the Torah for one who has a discharge, and for him who emits semen and is unclean thereby, **33** `and for her who is indisposed because of her customary impurity, and for one who has a discharge, either man or woman, and for him who lies with her who is unclean.'"

*"In ancient times a sage interpreted the affliction more broadly, as a spiritual plague. We are all vulnerable, for suffering and adversity are part of the human condition. What can we do with our afflictions? We can accept them. Often we can overcome them. And we can try to help one another."*  
Rabbinical quote

While these teachings that go into the minutiae of the Torah and some of its commands might seem very distant to us today we need to look at the broader picture here in that these diseases represent to us the bigger problem of our sins. The Eternal One's instructions to Moses, and through him to the Children of Israel, are for the purpose of bringing order out of disorder. We have a people that were formally slaves whom the Eternal One brought out of that slavery after He had laid waste to the nation of Egypt.

Now He was turning to the task at hand in molding these people into one nation. Unification is not an easy thing to accomplish as those of us in ministry can attest to. Anything can throw a monkey wrench into unity. It can be a disagreement over theological positions or over some small thing that many of us would not think could have caused a problem. Many leaders of congregations have faced dissension in their congregations that have caused division and splits. This can mirror what was going on in Israel when some of the people rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

Now, as for me, I do not compare myself on a level with Moses but I have seen some of the things that he had to deal on his level. Our congregations are mini-Israel's because we consider ourselves to be a part of the greater nation of Israel, the nation that the Eternal One birthed in the Wilderness.

**Isaiah 64:8** But now, O LORD, You *are* our Father; we *are* the clay, and You our potter; and all we *are* the work of Your hand.

**Jeremiah 18:6** "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so *are* you in My hand, O house of Israel!

We need to learn how to submit ourselves to the Eternal One so He can work within us and shape and mold us into the people of the Holy One that He desires us to be. This means cleansing our Spiritual houses, our bodies, so that they can be ready to receive the Ruach HaKodesh from Him. Once we cleanse our living Temples He can shape us like clay is shaped by a potter. Have you ever watched a potter working? They sit at a turning table they control going round and round and forming the item they are working on trying to bring it into being. The Eternal One does the same thing with us and it can be a time consuming process.

Sometimes the potter cannot get exactly the right shape they are looking for so they have to begin again. Look at what the Eternal One had to do with Israel. He worked on them over and over trying to make them into the nation He desired them to be because He had called them out of Egypt for His divine purpose. He desired that there be a people unto Himself and that they would set the example for the rest of the nations of the earth. From the beginning of Israel there were problems. People being who they are imperfect creatures but we were created that way by the Creator Himself. The one thing He did give us was the ability to overcome our situation and to enter into a relationship with Him where He could offer us the way of our dilemma.

**Galatians 2:17** "But if, while we seek to be justified by Messiah, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Messiah therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

We are sinners extraordinaire! We have gone out of our way to take what the Almighty has given us and re-make it as a potter does, but in our cases, instead of molding ourselves into the image of Messiah we have re-made ourselves as sinners in opposition to what our Creator desires for us. The purpose of the skin diseases was, in many cases, a physical manifestation of a spiritual sin. What

had been done by an individual in transgression of the Almighty's Torah would manifest itself as a skin sore. The rabbis are of the opinion that this is usually connected with the sin of *Lashon Hara* or the *Evil Tongue* commonly called gossip or slander. It is well known and documented in Scripture that the tongue is a mighty weapon even though it is small in size.

**Job 27:4** My lips will not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

**Psalm 34:13** Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

**James 3:6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **8** But no man can tame the tongue. *It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.* **9** With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. **10** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

This is the bane of most Believers that I know or come into contact with. They have all the right words and do the right things but underneath this righteous facade there is evil lurking that comes out by means of the tongue. The Shaliach Yaakov (James) speaks about this in his letter. I especially like the way he said, ***“With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.”*** We have been formed in the image of our first parent Adam, who was made in the image of our Creator. Yet, despite this we bless our Creator in one breath and curse our fellow man in another. This should not be my friends! We must rise above this and learn to master our tongues. This is not an easy thing to do, believe me I know from personal experience. I come from a family where it was prized to be able to cut down a person by our words and not physically.

I still struggle with this problem today and I pray to the Eternal One every day to help me overcome this fault. I am a work in progress like all of you. Here is a quote from aish.com, the Orthodox Jewish website.

*Whenever you notice a fault in another person, check where you have that fault in yourself. We have a strong tendency to notice our own faults in others. This awareness gives us many opportunities to learn about our own shortcomings – since it is easier to recognize a fault in someone else than in ourselves.*

*What fault do you commonly notice in other people? In what ways do you have that fault yourself?*

*Use this awareness as a tool to stop yourself from speaking against others. Who would want to speak against others knowing that you are merely drawing attention to that same fault in yourself?*

*Today, catch yourself in the act of criticizing others. Then think about the implications for yourself. (see Talmud Kiddushin 70b; Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin – Ruach Chaim 2:1)*

Try to put into action the words from this quote. You will find that life will be better and your relationship with your fellow man will improve tremendously.

## **2 Kings 4:42-44**

**42** And there came a man from Baal-shalishah, and brought the man of God bread of the first-fruits, twenty loaves of barley, and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat. **43** And his servant said, What, should I set this before a hundred men? But he said, Give the people, that they may eat; for thus says the Eternal One, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof. **44** So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the Eternal One.

As people take upon themselves the ways of the Almighty, so too, they also can bring upon themselves His blessings. In our portion from the Haftarah reading this week we see the power that Elisha, the successor to Elijah had. In what Elisha did here we see it again being done by Yeshua in the Apostolic Scripture portion. More than that we see where Elijah and Elisha prayed and the Eternal One brought individuals back from the dead. They were forerunners of Yeshua who would perform the same miracles they did to confirm His status as Messiah and as a Prophet of the Most High. If the Torah, the Prophets, and the Psalms testify of the Messiah how can we discount who He is.

**Luke 24:44** Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Torah of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

He is the Living Word of His Father and it was through Him that all things were created by Him and for Him. Messiah died before the foundation of the world.

**Revelation 13:8** All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

It has always amazed me at how the Eternal One knows what is to be and it shouldn't because He is the Almighty. To Him time is nothing because He created it and controls it and can step in and out of time at any point He chose. When we see statements like "*slain from the foundation of the world*" we should realize the power of the Holy One of Israel. When we understand just who He is and what His Son Yeshua did on behalf of His creation it should humble us and cause us to fall down on our faces before the Almighty. He is the Lord of lords and King of kings and sometimes I think we have missed this.

## **Matthew 14:16-21**

**16** But Yeshua said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." **17** And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." **18** He said, "Bring them here to Me." **19** Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. **20** So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. **21** Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

In what Yeshua did here He confirmed He was a Prophet of the Eternal One and He was the Messiah. He is the Holy One of Israel who is pure love and who out of His love must judge His people Israel and all of the nations who have ever existed upon the face of the earth. In the day Yeshua returns judgment will follow at the great White Throne judgment. This will come to pass at

the end of the Messianic Kingdom when all rebellion against the Almighty is finally put down. As some of the leaders of Israel rebelled against the Eternal One by coming against Moses and Aaron even today this disobedience continues with everyone believing they are the only ones who know what the truth is.

How can you know what the truth is when you turn against His Torah, the books that contain His truth in the laws He gave to Moses to govern Israel? Think what the world would be like if we were all under the rule of Torah? I am not talking about the laws made by the sages of old but by the Almighty. Yeshua fed five thousand men, and women with children that day two thousand years ago. In what He did he showed that He was the greatest from among the Prophets and that He was something more – the Lord Almighty comes in the flesh. That should boggle your mind! The Holy One of Israel revealed Himself through His Son.

**John 10:30** "I and My Father are one."

**John 14:9** Yeshua said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

**John 5:37** "And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

Yeshua is saying here in the Gospel of Yochanan (John) that He is the one who has spoken to man throughout the ages and that when the Holy One appeared to man it was He Yeshua who appeared. Are Yeshua and the Father one? They have to be for Yeshua to be able to say the things He did. His words echo down through the ages from the opening words of Genesis all the way up to Revelation. It is fitting, at least to me, that Yochanan is the one who reveals to us the mystery of the Almighty in his Gospel and closes the Bible with his book of Revelation once more revealing to us the Almighty through His Son Yeshua.

He fed the five thousand that day when they had gathered to hear Him speak. He fed the Israelites in the Wilderness or forty years. He will feed us during the Messianic Age and into eternity when we rest with Him in the time beyond time – eternity.

**Revelation 3:20** "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

***Baruch atah Adonai, sho-mei-a t'fi-lah. Praised be the Eternal One, who hearkens to prayer.***

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*Tony Robinson at [www.devoted.to/Torah](http://www.devoted.to/Torah) (sign up)*

*Mark R. Ensign at [mrensign@arn.net](mailto:mrensign@arn.net) (request to be added to list)*

*Ardelle Brody [[abrody@mchsi.com](mailto:abrody@mchsi.com)](posted on Mordecai's website along with his Torah commentary-an excellent woman's perspective)*

**May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver***

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