

APRIL 28, 2012

TAZRIA (She bears seed) / METZORA (Infected one)

This week we are blessed with a double portion. Taz-ree-ah, which means “delivery,” is possibly the most disgusting *parashah* in the *Torah*. It speaks of scabs, white spots on the skin, boils, and raw flesh. The second *parashah*, Meh-tzor-ah, isn't quite so bad - it addresses coming into contact with a corpse and the possibility of tearing down your house.

BUT WAIT! There is a light at the end of the tunnel. There is a way to restore fellowship with the rest of the community. By following the prescribed rituals described in the *parashot*, a person may be declared “clean.”

But, “How,” you may ask, “is this accomplished?” According to 13:2-3, the person with the problem must present himself to Aaron or one of the other *kohanim*. How many of you would like the responsibility of having to examine eruptions on someone's skin - not me. And yet, here is the High Priest of all of Israel, appointed by HaShem, the brother of the nation's leader, the second in command, so to speak. And he is commanded to look at diseased flesh. Aaron was a man of very high regard, but he was humbled by this command of HaShem. This is a lesson for anyone who is in a leadership position, large or small. No matter how important we think we are, we have to be prepared to do whatever it takes. We may not always like doing what is required, but we must serve with humility.

Theme: Humility

Hebrew reading: Leviticus 13:1-2 - Nona Faber

OT reading: Leviticus 13:1-3

Haftarah: 2 Kings 7:3-5

B'rit Chadasha: Luke 7:20-23