

Tazria  
"Conceived"

Torah Reading: Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59  
Haftarah Reading: II Kings 4:42 - 5:19

Metzora  
"Leper"

Torah Reading: Leviticus 14:1 - 15:33  
Haftarah Reading: II Kings 7:3-20

### Study Notes

Not (Necessarily) in sin, not dirty

- To understand these two parashas we must dive into the meaning of "clean" and "unclean".
- The Hebrew words are 'tahor' and 'tam'ei'. In most minds these carry a meaning of good and bad or sin. This is not the Hebrew meaning. The best translation is "ritually clean" or "ritually unclean".
- When someone was declared tam'ei he was prohibited from participating with the sacrificial system, whose primary purpose was to bring one near to God.

Sin and Death

- Why did these seemingly unconnected things make someone unclean? The connection is sin and death.
- "Ritual uncleanness is often linked with the sphere of death"
- When a person touched a dead body, blood, or had some kind of bodily fluid flowing from him/her, they were considered tam'ei. Likewise with a skin condition and mold/mildew.
- A tam'ei person was walking in sin or had come in contact with sin or death.
- Reality is that life does not mix with death; sin does not mix with righteousness; sacred does not mix with profane.
- This was a teaching tool. The period of being declared tam'ei was usually for one full day. In essence God was saying "You are in a state where you have either sinned or come in contact with sin and death. I want you to know that My kingdom is totally different from that realm. Thus, I must prohibit you from coming into My House where you would be approaching My innermost chambers."

Two Kingdoms

- This brings us back to the idea of two kingdoms.
- There is the kingdom of life and the kingdom of death. The two do not mix in anyway. You are part of either one or the other. The concept of tahor and tam'ei helps illustrate that.

### Childbirth

- Because of the blood and discharge involved it's easy to see why childbirth put a woman in a state of tam'e'i.
- The question comes up of why she had to offer a sacrifice for sin. One thought is that because of the fall all are born sinners. The mother brought another sinner into the world and must offer a sacrifice for this act.
- Read Lev. 12:8 and then Luke 2:22-24.

### Progression

- Look at the progression of the skin issues. First it starts with the body, then the clothes, then the whole house.
- During each stage the person is quarantined. This gives them a chance to reflect on any sin in their lives.
- This progression illustrates how sin can spread in our own lives.
- Read Lev. 13:16-17 and then Luke 5:12-14.