

TORAH TEACHINGS



Understanding YAH's Likes and dislikes

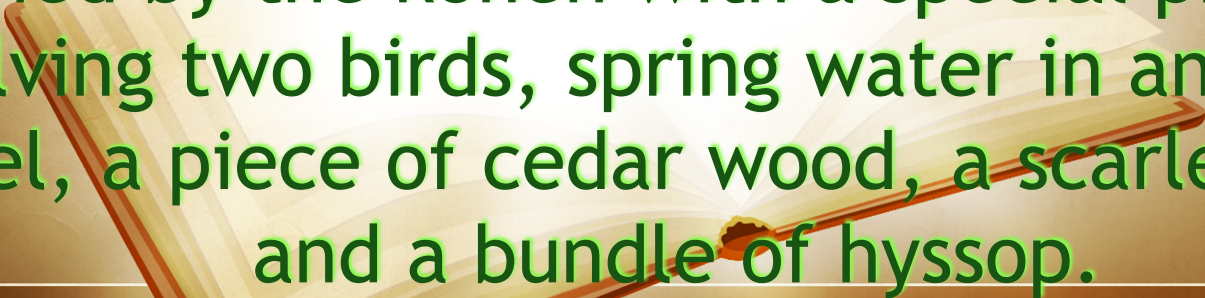
28 Metzora or M'tzora, (מְצֹרָע)
**— Hebrew for “one being
diseased,”**

Torah: Leviticus 14:1-15:33
Haftarah: 2 Kings 7:1-20

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

When the metzora (“leper”) heals, he or she is purified by the kohen with a special procedure involving two birds, spring water in an earthen vessel, a piece of cedar wood, a scarlet thread and a bundle of hyssop.



TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

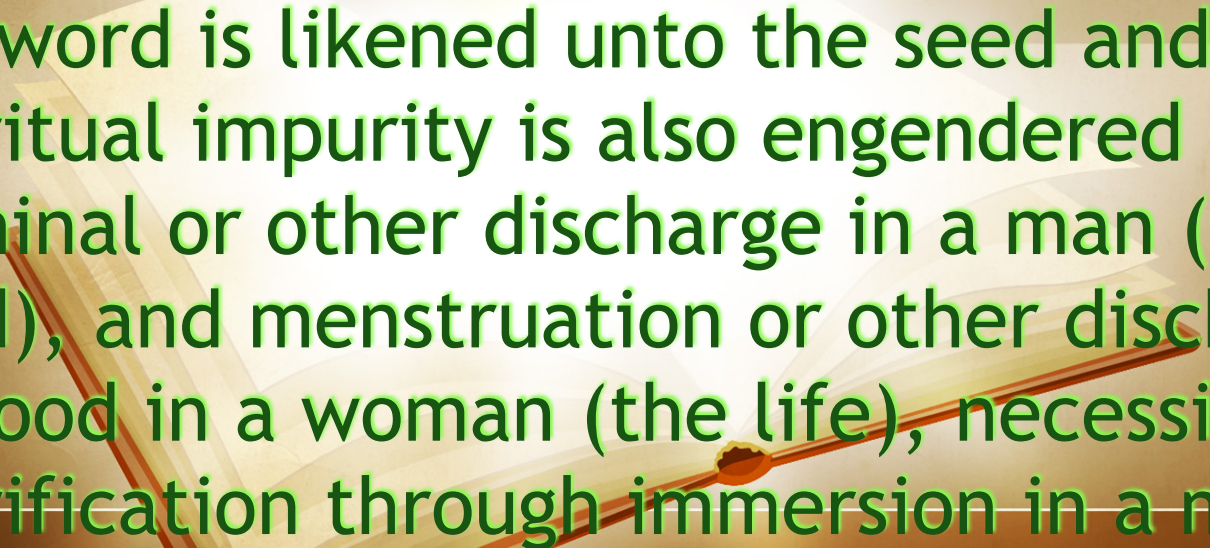
THIS WEEK TORAH PARASHAT

The interesting thing about the ritualistic cleansing and cure for metzora (the physical manifestation of a spiritual sickness) caused by an evil tongue is that it is the same ritual performed for the anointing the High Priest before his intercessory work for his brothers in Israel began. This teaches us that if we are to be true intercessors for one another we can have no evil thoughts or even negativity leading to negative words against our fellow man, if we are to be an apt intercessor and priest in messiah's Kingdom!

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

The word is likened unto the seed and life and thus ritual impurity is also engendered through a seminal or other discharge in a man (i.e. the seed), and menstruation or other discharge of blood in a woman (the life), necessitating purification through immersion in a mikvah.



Laws for Cleansing Houses

Lev 14:33 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon, saying,

Lev 14:34 “When you come into the land of Kena'an, which I am giving you as a possession, and I put a plague of leprosy in a house in the land of your possession,

Lev 14:35 then shall the one who owns the house come and inform the priest, saying, ‘It seems to me that there is some plague in the house.’

Lev 14:36 “And the priest shall command, and they shall empty the house, before the priest goes in to look at the plague, so that all that is in the house is not made unclean. And after that the priest goes in to look at the house.

Lev 14:37 “And he shall look at the plague and see, if the plague is on the walls of the house with sunken places, greenish or reddish, which appear to be deep in the wall,

Lev 14:38 then the priest shall go out of the house,
to the door of the house, and shut up the house
seven days.

Lev 14:39 “And the priest shall come again on the
seventh day and look and see, if the plague has
spread on the walls of the house,

Lev 14:40 then the priest shall command, and they
shall remove the stones with the plague in them,
and they shall throw them outside the city, into an
unclean place,

Lev 14:41 while he lets the house be scraped inside, all around, and the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city.

Lev 14:42 “And they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones, and take other mortar and plaster the house.

Lev 14:43 “And if the plague comes back and breaks out in the house, after he has removed the stones, after he has scraped the house, and after it is plastered,

Lev 14:44 then the priest shall come and look and see, if the plague has spread in the house, it is an active leprosy in the house, it is unclean.

Lev 14:45 “And he shall break down the house, its stones, and its timber, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall bring them outside the city to an unclean place.

Lev 14:46 “And he who goes into the house, all the days while it is shut up, becomes unclean until evening.

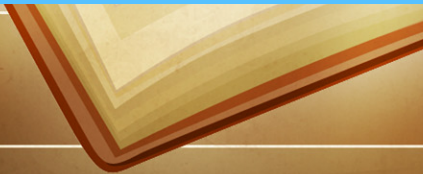
Lev 14:47 “And he who lies down in the house has to wash his garments, and he who eats in the house has to wash his garments.

Lev 14:48 “However, if the priest indeed comes in and looks at it and sees that the plague has not spread in the house after the house was plastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the plague is healed.

Lev 14:49 “And to cleanse the house, he shall take two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop.

Lev 14:50 “And he shall slay one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water,

Lev 14:51 and he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and the live bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird and in the running water, and shall sprinkle the house seven times.



Lev 14:52 “He shall thus cleanse the house with the blood of the bird and the running water and the live bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet,

Lev 14:53 and he shall let the live bird loose outside the city in the open field, and shall make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean.

Lev 14:54 “This is the Torah for any infection of leprosy, and eruption,



Lev 14:55 and for leprosy of a garment, and of a house,

Lev 14:56 and for a swelling, and for a scab, and for a bright spot,

Lev 14:57 to teach when it is unclean and when it is clean. This is the Torah of leprosy.”

Verse 3 - And the priest shall go out of the camp!
יהושע went outside of the city and in the process was able to bring healing to us as He was sent from heaven and also went out of the camp - for in our sin we were not able to enter in - but now that the Priest has come out and inspected us, we are able to receive the necessary cleansing, and 'enter in' with boldness by the blood of Messiah!

**Verse 4 - we see the components used in the
cleansing process - and they are:**

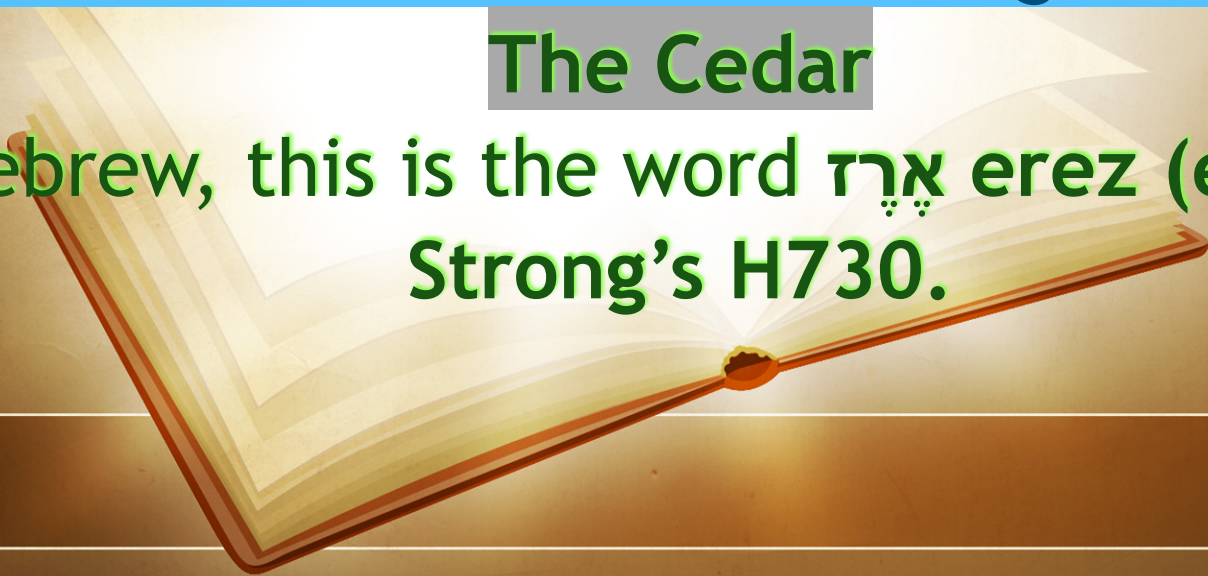
**2 live and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet and
hyssop**

**The cedar wood, scarlet and hyssop are used in the
sanctifying of the red heifer which was the only way
the high priest could be sanctified in order to begin
making others set-apart:**

Bemidbar/ Numbers 19:6 “And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet, and throw them into the midst of the fire burning the heifer.”


The Cedar

In Hebrew, this is the word עֵרֶז erez (eh-rez')-
Strong's H730.



In Tehillah/Psalm 92 Dawid tells us that the righteous will grow like the cedars of Lebanon. It is a strong and firm tree and a cedar tree is in itself a wonderful illustration of bringing us a picture of a person who is **טוֹב** (good) and fully functional in Messiah.

They have been known to grow up to 12 meters in circumference!



The roots grow down extremely deep and wrap around rocks for anchorage and grow upwards in heights of up to 45 meters!!!

The fragrance of a cedar tree acts as a great defense against being attacked by insects and pests and it is 'knot' free and rot resistant, known for their longevity and are perennial evergreen trees.

An open book with a small brown object on the spine. The book is open, showing its pages, and is positioned diagonally across the lower half of the image. The background is a textured, light brown surface.

Cedar, as we know, is used in Scripture for the process of the cleaning of a leper - it is used in the Red Heifer sacrifice; Shelomoh used cedar wood to build the Temple.


The cedar speaks of us being strong and trustworthy in Messiah and being the fragrance of Messiah, which to some will be death and to others life. It also speaks of trusting in יהוה and obeying the command of יהושע Messiah to not worry!

The cedar also represents for us a 'storing up' treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy' and so, as we do the good works prepared in advance for us, we repel the need to store up the fleshly desires that are like pests that cause rot!

The Hyssop

The use of the hyssop plant was a prophetic picture of the impaling of Messiah and the ‘application’ of His Blood upon our heart:

Yohanan/John 19:29-30 “A bowl of sour wine stood there, and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and held it to His mouth. 30 So when יהושע took the sour wine He said, “It has been accomplished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”



Dawid also used the term 'hyssop' as a picture of cleansing and forgiveness by the Blood of Messiah:

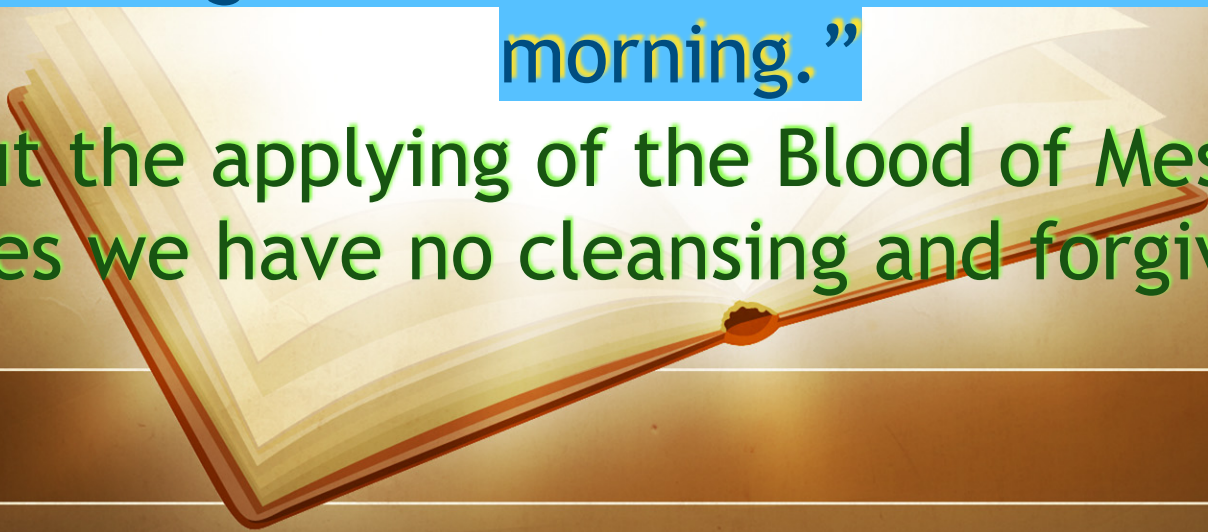
Tehillah/Psalm 51:7 "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I am clean; wash me, and I am whiter than snow."

The 2 doorposts that were to be struck with the blood using hyssop can also represent the 2 houses of Yisra'el - Yehudah and Yisra'el (Ephrayim), being brought together by the Blood of the Lamb - our Messiah!



Shemoth/Exodus 12:22 “And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin, and you, none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.”

Without the applying of the Blood of Messiah in our lives we have no cleansing and forgiveness!





Hyssop - A woody Eurasian plant (*Hyssopus officinalis*) having spikes of small blue flowers and aromatic leaves used in perfumery and as a condiment. The Hebrew word for hyssop is **עִזּוֹב** **ezob** (ay-zobe')- **Strong's H231** and was used for sprinkling in some of the sacrifices and purifications of the Yisra'ēlites. In consequence of its detergent qualities, or from its being associated with the purificatory Services, Dawid makes use of the expression, "Purge me with ezob." (Tehillah/Psalm 51:7).

It is described in Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 4:33 as growing on or near walls.

Besides being thus fit for sprinkling, having cleansing properties and growing on walls, the true hyssop should be a plant common to Mitsrayim, Sinai and Yisra'ěl, and capable of producing a stick three or four feet long, since on a stalk of hyssop the sponge of vinegar was held up to Messiah on the stake.

Yohanan/John 19:29 “A bowl of sour wine stood there, and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and held it to His mouth.”

The Scarlet

The Hebrew word for 'scarlet' is תולעת tola'ath -
Strong's H8439 and means, 'worm'.

This scarlet (red) colour is believed by some to have
came from the crushed body of an insect (worm)
that attaches itself to a tree, lays eggs on it, puts a
sack of red juice around the eggs to protect them,
then dies, having emptied itself out for them-a
wonderful picture of יהושע.

The insect 'coccus ilicis' is related to the cochineal insect and found on the twigs and branches of evergreen oaks in Southern Europe and North Africa.

They belong to the family of insects known as Coccidae or Scale-insects.

When the female of the species is ready to lay eggs, she attaches her body firmly to the tree. The eggs are laid beneath her body and following the egg laying the insect dies.

Thus, the eggs are protected by the insect's body until the larvae are hatched. It was from the dead bodies of these insects that the scarlet dyes used in ancient times were extracted.

‘Scarlet’ speaks of sacrifice and typifies Messiah in His sufferings and His giving of Himself to be crushed for our iniquities:

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 5:2 “And walk in love, as Messiah also has loved us, and gave Himself for us, a gift and an offering to Elohim for a sweet-smelling fragrance.”

And while scarlet typically refers to blood atonement and sacrifice, we also note how the harlot whore of Babelon rides on a scarlet beast and is dressed in purple and scarlet causing many to become drunk on here adulteries and twisted counterfeit teachings!!!

We are to be on guard against false messages and be able to rightly divide the Truth, as the enemy certainly tries to mimic the Truth and causes many to fall for her falsehood!

The Hebrew root word for the cleansing of the leper, as mentioned earlier, is טָהַר **taher** (taw-hare')- Strong's **H2891**, and carries at its root meaning what we have described; and in summary, we take clear note that there is only One who can cleanse us!

And that is Messiah and so, as we come before Him and confess our sins to Him, our Head and High Priest, then He lifts us up and delivers and cleanses us from our sin/dirt.



What we can also see being pictured, in this root word, is the fact that the Blood of Messiah is for all!

The clay basket can, in essence, represent the whole basket, meaning the entire body or community.

An ĕphah basket would carry 10 omers, and typically as we have seen in Scripture that an omer represents an individual and 10 represents a quorum or whole and therefore an ĕphah basket speaks of the whole house of Yisra'ĕl; and it is by the Blood of Messiah that all who were once far off are now brought near and grafted in to the Covenants of Promise by the Blood of Messiah!

There is no other blood that cleanses - only by the blood of the Lamb - יהושע Messiah!

Verse 5 - Bird killed over running water

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'running' is חַיִּים *ḥayyîm* which means, 'life, flowing' comes from the root word חַי *ḥay* (khah'-ee)- Strong's H2416 which means, 'alive, living, fresh, running, renewed, living thing'.

As a verb, this root appears in three stems in Hebrew. The Qal tense conveys the basic meaning "*to live or have life*" whereas the two derived stems overlap in their meaning of "*giving or restoring life.*"

One of the meanings of the word ḥayyîm is 'endless life'.

And so, the great picture, or foreshadowing, of the work of Messiah, that we see in this procedure of killing the one bird in an earthen vessel over running water, is a clear representation of יהושע Messiah, whose blood was shed in 'an earthen vessel' - that being His mortal body, as the Word became flesh - and over running water, pictures for us the purification/ cleansing of the House of Yisra'ĕl, and the endless life that He has come to give us - abundant eternal life by the washing of the Word who died for us!!!

What we must guard against is the looking to the 'letter of the Torah' only; as we must recognize that the Torah without Messiah contains no life - but it is only in Messiah that true life of the Torah becomes something that can and does sustain us.

Tehillah/Psalm 36:9 "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light."


The Hebrew root word that is translated as **fountain** is - מקור maqor (maw-kore')- Strong's H4726 which means, '**a spring, fountain**' and comes from the root verb קור qur (koor)- Strong's H6979 which means, '**to dig**' and we know that we are to dig and seek out His kingdom and His righteousness!

The question is whether people have found the True well of LIFE and are actually **sitting and learning** at it or is it a muddied counterfeit that they have found?

With יהוה is the FOUNTAIN OF LIFE!!!

Tehillah/Psalm 68:6 “Bless Elohim in the assemblies, **יהוה**, from the fountain of Yisra’ěl.”

When we come to the **FOUNTAIN OF LIFE** and gather when we should, as an obedient flock who know His voice, then that Water of Life becomes a fountain in us as our lives are changed and our speech is renewed enabling us to bring life and healing to the nations!



Mishlě/Proverbs 10:11 “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wrong.”

Mishlě/Proverbs 13:14 “The Torah of the wise is a fountain of life, turning one away from the snares of death.”

Mishlě/Proverbs 14:27 “The fear of יהוה is a fountain of life, to turn away from the snares of death.”

Mishlě/Proverbs 16:22 “Understanding is a fountain of life to him who has it, But the disciplining of fools is folly.”

Our Master and Elohim, **יהושע** Messiah, is 'The Living Torah', or rather, the living embodiment of the Torah, and He is our source of Life, or rather, He is the Life of the Torah!

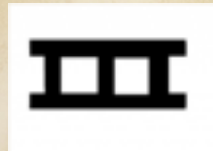
And when we drink of Him - the **FOUNTAIN OF LIFE** begins to flow out of us, as we gain understanding and walk in the fear of **יהוה** by walking in the Torah, and our speech becomes a flowing source of life!!!

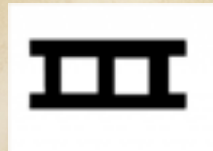
In the ancient pictographic symbols of this word, we are given a greater insight in understanding how **יהושע** Messiah is **THE LIFE!**

This word - **חַי** **hay** (khah'-ee)- Strong's H2416, in the ancient pictographic script, is pictured as follows:



Het - n



The ancient script has this letter as  which is a **'tent wall'**, and carries a meaning of **'separation'**, as a tent wall separates two halves of the tent; or it can also reflect the outside walls that separate the people inside from that which is outside and so can also symbolize protection and security to those inside, while picturing a cutting off of those who are outside. Hence this letter can mean **'established, secure'** as well as **'cut off, separated from'**. As a tent wall we are also able to recognize the picture of stones being built up to make a complete wall.

Yod - י



The ancient script has this letter as which is **‘an arm and hand’** and carries the meaning of **‘work, make, throw’**, from the primary functions of the arm and hand, and it also represents worship or giving thanks in the extending of hands as a gesture of this. The work of one’s hands is the basic meaning of this letter!

From this ancient pictographic lettering of the word for LIFE: יָחַי (khah'-ee)- Strong's H2416, we are clearly able to see how by the work of Messiah - the outstretched arm and hand of Elohim, we as living stones, are built up in Him as the Dwelling Place of the Living Elohim and have been separated to serve and worship Him in Spirit is Truth.

These two pictographs can render for us the clear meaning:

SEPARATED TO SERVE

So, while emphasis is placed on the 'afterlife' by the mainstream church - what we must realize is that we are to guard our life that we have been given in our Master, right here and now - for Messiah came to give us life abundantly and have no fear of death - for He has conquered death!

What matters is how we 'live' and how our lives are to be a living praise to Him, now!

What gives us our ability to be built up as living stones in the Master, is our continued obedience to walking in that which is our life - His Torah!

Debarim/Deuteronomy 32:45-47 “And when Mosheh ended speaking all these words to all Yisra’ēl, 46 he said to them, “Set your heart on all the words with which I warn you today, so that you command your children to guard to do all the Words of this Torah. 47 “For it is not a worthless Word for you, because it is your life, and by this Word you prolong your days on the soil which you pass over the Yardēn to possess.”

