# תַזְרִיעַ

## TAZRIA/*SHE SHALL CONCEIVE*

## Vayikra/*Leviticus*12:1-13:59

The root of the word for **Torah** is "**yarah**" (יָרָה) and can mean "**to instruct**." "**Yarah**" is an archery term that implies hitting the bullseye. Consider the bullseye for a moment. If Torah was given to point us to the way, the truth, and the life, then the target pictures the varying distances we can be from that goal. Also, the closer we get to the center, the more difficult the shot. That's really significant as we try to understand the deeper principles that give access into His Presence.

This week a lot of the reading is very detailed in the subjects of what is "**clean**" or "**unclean**." This discussion actually started during the ordination of the priests when they were told it would be their duty to "**distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean**." Not only were they to "**distinguish**" but they were also to "**teach the children of Israel**" about these concepts.

> **Vayikra/Leviticus 10:10** "that you may **distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean**, [11] "and **that you may teach the children of Israel** all the statutes which יהוה has spoken to them by the hand of Moshe."

**Vayikra 11** continued with the teaching of distinguishing between "**clean**" and "**unclean**" animals in order to know what was suitable for the children of Israel to eat.

> **Vayikra 11:46** ' This *is* the Torah of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, [47] **'to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten**.' "

**Vayikra 12** covers the birth of a child and the mother's "**unclean**" state as a result of her "**flow of blood**":

> **Vayikra 12:7** 'Then he shall offer it before יהוה, and make atonement for her. And **she shall be clean from the flow of her blood**.

**Chapter 13** becomes very specific in addressing skin disorders which may lead to one becoming "**unclean**." Most people find it overwhelming and not applicable whatsoever in our day and age. Yet we must somehow gain some sort of understanding of the teaching as in the book of **Ephesians** we are told an "**unclean person**" will "**have no inheritance in the Kingdom of Messiah**." That makes it sound like something worth investigating!

> **Ephesians 5:5** For this you know, that **no** fornicator, **unclean person**, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **has any inheritance in the kingdom of Messiah and Elohim**.

With such difficult information, how then can we strip through the layers of teachings and find their relevance to us as believers in Messiah? I certainly don't have all the answers, but I do believe we should

be searching for how it all fits in with covenant, restoration and cleansing….and always be aiming for the bullseye!

The end of **Vayikra 13** addresses the topic of "**tzara'at**" (translated as leprosy) in "**garments**." Let's approach this from the angle of restoration. Many believe that when Adam was created, he was clothed with righteous, glory, and beauty in order to reflect the light of the Almighty. Adam was able to have perfect, unbroken fellowship with his Creator.

However, as a result of their sin, Adam and Chavah (Eve) were stripped of their garments of light. Their guilt and shame were displayed as "**nakedness**."

> **Bereshith/Genesis 3:7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and **they knew that they *were* naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves **coverings**.

Their physical "**nakedness**" now became a symbol of their spiritual "**nakedness**." They were no longer able to stand before Elohim. They needed restoration and they knew they needed to be "**covered**." Their attempts at making their own clothing would not suffice and the Almighty kills an animal to provide them with "**tunics of skins**." Obviously, this points to the future offering of the Lamb.

> **Bereshith 3:21** Also for Adam and his wife יהוה Elohim made **tunics of skin**, and clothed them.

Some of the "**garments**" the priests were commanded to wear were also for the purpose of covering their "**nakedness**." This detail in the text drives our thoughts back to the Garden and to the "**nakedness**" of our first parents.

> **Shemot/Exodus 28:42** "And you shall make for them **linen trousers to cover their nakedness**; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.

Adam had failed as the one guarding the Holy Place in the Garden; now the Priests would be given the chance to guard the Presence of יהוה. יהוה was establishing a Priesthood for the work of reconciling man to holiness. For these reasons, the Priests wore "**holy garments for glory and for beauty**."

> **Shemot 28:2** "And you shall make **holy garments for Aharon** your brother, **for glory and for beauty**.
>
> **Shemot 28:40** " For Aharon's sons you shall make **tunics**, and you shall make **sashes** for them. And you shall make **hats** for them, **for glory and beauty**.

The Father had thrown mankind out of the Garden and far from the bullseye. Now the process for bringing him closer had begun. If we look at the prophecies, we read one of the richest promises that יהוה makes to Israel. He says he will "**clothe them with garments of salvation**" and "**cover them with the robe of righteousness**":

> **Isaiah 61:10** I will greatly rejoice in יהוה, my soul shall be joyful in my Elohim; For He has **clothed me with the garments of salvation**, He has **covered me with the robe of**

**<u>righteousness</u>**, as a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

To be "**clothed with the garments of salvation**" reminds us as believers that we have "**put on Messiah**":

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Messiah **<u>have put on Messiah</u>**.

It seems we have made it all so nice and simple. All we have to do is believe in Messiah, right? Bullseye! But let's return to **Vayikra 13** and see what's there for the believer who puts on the "**garment of Messiah**." Several times as part of the cleansing process, the Israelites are told to "**wash – כָּבַס kavas**" their "**garments and be clean**". In **Vayikra 14**, the one affected will be told to bathe himself, but before that, he must "**wash his garments**." "**Washing his garments**" is repeated in every instance.

**Vayikra 13:6** "Then the priest shall examine him again on the seventh day; and indeed *if* the sore has faded, *and* the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean; it *is only* a scab, and he shall **<u>wash (כָּבַס kavas) his garments and be clean</u>**.

**Vayikra 13:34** "On the seventh day the priest shall examine the scale; and indeed *if* the scale has not spread over the skin, and does not appear deeper than the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean. He shall **<u>wash (כָּבַס kavas) his garments and be clean</u>**.

**Vayikra 13:58** "And if you **<u>wash (כָּבַס kavas) the garment</u>**, either warp or woof, or whatever is made of leather, if the plague has disappeared from it, then it shall be **<u>washed (כָּבַס kavas) a second time, and shall be clean</u>**.

The word "**kavas**" was also used by יהוה when He told Moshe to speak to the people and tell them to prepare for coming near to hear from Him. Notice they had two days to get ready because on the "**third day**" He would make His appearance:

**Shemot/Exodus 19:10** Then יהוה said to Moshe, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them **<u>wash (כָּבַס kavas) their clothes</u>**. [11] "And **<u>let them be ready for the third day</u>**. For **<u>on the third day</u>** יהוה will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Do you see how "**washing your clothes**" is all about preparing yourself to be in the Presence of the Almighty, i.e., "**hitting that bullseye**?" In the book of **Revelation**, Yeshua spoke to a few people in the congregation of **Sardis** who had kept their "**garments**" clean and would be able to be in His Presence and to "**walk with Him**" in that "**third day**":

**Revelation 3:4** "You have a few names even in **<u>Sardis</u>** who have **<u>not defiled their garments</u>**; and they shall **<u>walk with Me</u>** in white, for they are worthy.

**Hosea 6:2** After two days He will revive us; **On the third day He will raise us up**, that we may live in His sight.

The body of Messiah has been given "**two days**" or "**two thousand years**" (since Messiah came at the beginning of the 5th millennium) to prepare their "**garments**" in readiness for the "**third day**." The "**third day**" lines up with the "**seventh millennium**." It was always on the "**seventh day**" that the priest examined the person or his garments to determine if they were "**clean**" or "**unclean**":

**Vayikra 13:5** "And the priest shall examine him on the **seventh day**; and indeed, *if* the sore appears to be as it was, *and* the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall isolate him another **seven days**.

**Vayikra13:49** "and if the plague is greenish or reddish in the garment or in the leather, whether in the warp or in the woof, or in anything made of leather, it *is* a leprous plague and shall be shown to the priest. 50 "The priest shall examine the plague and isolate *that which has* the plague **seven days**.

Following are several verses from the Brit Chadasha about "**garments**." Keep in mind that the proper "**garments**" have the potential of bringing one closer to the Presence (the bullseye) of the Almighty.

**Matthew 22:11** "But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment**. 12 "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Matthew 23:5** "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their **garments**.

**Luke 8:35** Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Yeshua, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Yeshua, **clothed** and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

**Ephesians 4:21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Yeshua: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to Elohim, in true righteousness and holiness.

- Putting on the garments of Yeshua is a way of life

**Colossians 3:8** But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have **put on the new *man*** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him

**1 Timothy 2:9** in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly **garments**

**Jude 1:21** keep yourselves in the love of Yah, looking for the mercy of our Adonai Messiah Yeshua unto eternal life. [22] And on some have compassion, making a distinction; [23] but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, **hating even the garment defiled by the flesh**.

- It's one's fleshly ways that defiles the "**garment**"

**Revelation 3:4** "You have a few names even in Sardis who **have not defiled their garments**; and **they shall walk with Me** **in white**, for they are worthy. [5] "**He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments**, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- He who is "**clothed in white, walks with Him**."

**Revelation 3: 17** You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But **you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked**. [18] "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and **white garments**, that you may be **clothed**, *that* the **shame of your nakedness** may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

- It is possible to not even realize that you are "**naked**"
- "**Shame of your nakedness**" – references you back to the Garden.

**Revelation 4:4** Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones, I saw twenty-four elders sitting, **clothed in white garments**; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

**Revelation 7:14** And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So, he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and **washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb**.

- They "**washed their robes**," same as in **Vayikra 13**, indicating true repentance.
- Made "**white in the blood of the Lamb**"

**Revelation 16:15** "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and **keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame**."

- Again, a reference to the Garden and obedience

**Revelation 19:8** And to her it was granted to be arrayed in **fine linen, clean and bright**, for the **fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints**.

- Clearly about acts of obedience

Next, we have several Brit Chadasha verses on the concepts of "**clean/unclean**":

**Matthew 10:1** And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him,* He gave them **power *over* unclean spirits**, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

- Not only Yeshua, but His disciples were given power to cast out "**unclean spirits**."

**Matthew 15:18** "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and **these make a man unclean**. [19] "For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries,

fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. [20] "These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

- "**Uncleanness**" clearly pointed to as a "**heart**" issue.

**2 Corinthians 6:17** Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says Adonai. **Do not touch what is <u>unclean</u>**, And I will receive you."

**2 Corinthians 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **<u>let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit</u>**, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim.

- Yes, we have the responsibility to "**cleanse ourselves**."

**1 Thessalonians 4:7** For Elohim did not call us to **<u>uncleanness</u>**, but in holiness.

**1 John 1:7** But if we **<u>walk in the light</u>** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the **<u>blood of Messiah Yeshua His Son cleanses us</u>** from all sin.

Although it may seem a little odd that in **Vayikra 13** the Creator of the Universe would choose to focus on skin irritations, yet the fact that He is able to see those things that are more than skin-deep warns us that we need to examine ourselves:

**1 Corinthians 11:31** for **if ourselves we were discerning, we would not be being judged**

Today we have a High Priest who has cleansed us and has called us to be ready for judgment on the 7th day. The thought of judgment bothers people, but this is not about being judged for salvation. In **Vayikra 13**, one whose "**garment**" was declared "**unclean**" was required to "**burn it with fire**."

**Vayikra 13:55** … it (*the* ***<u>garment</u>***) *is* **<u>unclean</u>**, and you shall **<u>burn it in the fire</u>**; it continues eating away, *whether* the damage *is* outside or inside.

The man who owned the "**garment**" was not declared "**unclean**." But his "**garment**," his "**works**" were rejected, destroyed, and "**burned in the fire**." As believers in Yeshua, we also will not be destroyed, but our "**works**" will be judged and can be in danger of being destroyed when the "**fire tests our work**."

**1 Corinthians 3:13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be **<u>revealed by fire</u>**; and the **<u>fire will test each one's work</u>**, of what sort it is. [14] If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. [15] If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but **<u>he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire</u>**.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For **<u>we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah</u>**, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Shabbat Shalom!

*Ardelle*