

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHAH

ISSUE 27

29th March 2014

TAZRIA

27th Adar Sheni 5774

Kohen - First Aliya:

Page 1, Chapter 1, verses 1-13

- ✚ Hashem tells Moshe that a woman who has given birth to a boy will become tamei (impure) for seven days. On the eighth day her son must have a Bris Mila (Circumcision).
- ✚ For an additional thirty three days, the mother is not allowed access into the Mishkan or to touch anything that are deemed Kodesh (Holy).
- ✚ If she gave birth to a girl, the mother is deemed tamei for fourteen days and would be refused entry into the Mishkan and forbidden to touch any Kodesh vessels for a further sixty six days after.
- ✚ Once her period of being Tamei has ended, regardless if she gave birth to a boy or girl. She must bring and offer up a Korban Olah (burnt sacrifice) and a Korban Hatat (sin offering) to Hashem.

Levi - Second Aliya:

Page 4, Chapter 1, verses 14-23

- ✚ Hashem explains to Moshe and Aaron the laws of Tzara'at (a supernatural disease which looks very similar to leprosy). This is contracted as a result of Loshen Hora (Forbidden Gossip)
- ✚ If someone thinks they have Tzara'at on their skin, they must be taken straight to Aaron or one of his sons who will upon inspecting the affected area, declare whether the person is tamei or tahor (pure).
- ✚ If Aaron or his sons are uncertain, they must put the person in quarantine for seven days.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya:

Page 5, Chapter 1, verse 24- Chapter 2, verse 3

- ✚ If after being in quarantine for seven days, the Tzara'at upon further examination has remained the same colour and has not spread to any other part of the skin. The person is returned back to quarantine for a further seven days.
- ✚ If the Tzara'at has diminished. A Kohen can declare the person as tahor (pure) and bathe them along with their clothes in a Mikvah before being allowed back to dwell with his / her community.
- ✚ If the Tzara'at has spread to another part of the person's skin. The person is declared tamei (impure) by the Kohen and must undergo the process of becoming Tahor once more.

R'VI' - Fourth Aliya:

Page 8, Chapter 2, verse 4- Chapter 3, verse 21

- ✚ The laws of Tzara'at which appears following a burn to the skin are deliberated here.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Page 16, Chapter 3, verse 22- Chapter 4, verse 26

- ✚ Tzara'at can also affect the areas on the body covered by hair. The symptoms relating to this kind of Tzara'at differ to the way the standard form of Tzara'at is treated and are discussed here.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya:

Page 21, Chapter 5, verses 1-24

- ✚ A person who has Tzara'at must tear his clothes, let their hair grow, keep their lips covered and warn others that they are Tamei (impure), in order not to come in contact with them.
- ✚ As long as a person has the disease they must remain and live outside of the main camp of where Bnai Yisrael are dwelling.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya:

Page 24, Chapter 5, verse 25- Chapter 6, verse 8

- ✚ Tzara'at can also be detected on clothing. If found contaminated the clothing is placed in quarantine for seven days.
- ✚ If after seven days, the Kohen finds out on inspection, the Tzara'at has spread. The clothing must be burnt.

Maftir – PARSHAS HACHODESH, Shemot, Chapter 12 Verses 1 - 20

- ✚ Two weeks prior to the Exodus, Hashem informs Moshe that the month of Nissan will be known from this moment on 'The head of all Months'. Moshe has to instruct Bnai Yisrael on how to set up the 'Jewish Calendar' by looking out for and reporting back the start of every cycle of the new moon which will mark the beginning of each month.
- ✚ Hashem also instructs Bnai Yisrael to abstain from consuming any food which has leavened for seven days and that they must bring a Korban Pesach, (Pascal Lamb) which has be eaten with matzah and bitter herbs.

Haftorah – PARSHAS HACHODESH, Ezekiel Chapter 45 Verses 18-46

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ The Haftorah begins with a description of the various korbonos (sacrifices) that will be brought to the Beis Hamikdash and offered up to Hashem.
- ✚ Every year on the fourteenth of Nissan, every family must bring a Korban Pesach to Jerusalem.
- ✚ The rest of the Haftorah is devoted to of Ezekiel's prophecy regarding the third Beis Hamikdash, its structure, inauguration and some of the practices that will be observed and practised there.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ The Haftorah is a prophecy regarding the Paschal Offering that will be brought during the Messianic Era. This reflects the theme of Maftir HaChodesh, where Moshe is commanding Bnai Yisrael in Mitzraim how to prepare and bring the Korban Pesach.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

The week before Rosh Chodesh Nissan, we read the last of the four special parshas, Parshas HaChodesh, where it discusses the first mitzvah given to the Bnai Yisrael as a nation, the mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh, (Sanctifying the New Moon); followed by the mitzvah of the Korban Pesach (Passover lamb offering) and other laws relating to Pesach.

Last week I went back and read through the other special parshas again trying to connect them all together and to find out why these are read prior to the month of Nissan and I think I've found one common thread linking them together. As we go through each Parsha, we are gearing ourselves up, ready to know what it is going to be like when we all become be truly free, emotionally physically and spiritually.

Firstly we begin with 'Shekalim' relating to the weight of silver everyone annually donated for the upkeep of the Mishkan. The message here is how we should look at what we have achieved so far and weigh up our options in order to strengthen and better ourselves for the future.

To enable us to do this we must first look back at our past accomplishments. This is where Parshas Zachor fits in as it shows how resilient and resourceful we've been so far, giving us the courage to be able to make those sometimes difficult choices, which we may fear to change or leave behind; in order to make things better.

Next comes 'Para', to help purify our thoughts, strengthening our beliefs and putting our complete faith and trust in Hashem as He ultimately knows what's best for us in the long run and would never lead us astray.

Finally, we have HaChodesh, emerging from this entire process as a "new and improved" You! Proud and confident of where you've come from and what you can achieve in the future. To me, it makes sense logically that Hashem would give the mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh together with the laws of Pesach. By celebrating the sanctification of the month of Nissan, we are celebrating the fact that Hashem is in control and has the authority over the world to do what's right for us. May we merit the prophecy of Ezekiel, "On that day, Hashem will be one and his name will be one", to be fulfilled speedily in our days. So we all can be truly free.

