

Torah Portion:  
TAZRIA-METZORA (Conceive-The Leper)  
(Leviticus 12:1-15:33)  
*“Scrape the House”*  
By Rabbi Michael Washer  
(Aired on Shabbat Shalom April 18, 2026)

Shabbat shalom chaverim, this is Rabbi Michael Washer. If you have been listening to my teachings on Shabbat Shalom for any length of time, you know that I make pretty clear the vast difference between Judaism—God’s way, and Hellenistic Christianity. And though my teachings might be uncomfortable for many Christians, this is only because they challenge the mythologies and unbiblical nature of many Hellenistic teachings and beliefs.

The world of the normative Christian culture is founded on Replacement Theology and the deception of Hellenism—which is the way of the Greek—and the Roman kingdom. That Kingdom of Rome is also called the Kingdom of Esau, or Esav about which God says in **Malachi 1:2** *“Jacob I have loved and Esav I have hated.”* Esav or Rome is the only person in the entire Bible that God says He hates. Rome or Edom (Esav’s other name) is described by Daniel as the longest running and most cruel Kingdom the world has ever known. It is the last of the 4 Kingdoms, described as a monster that tramples and crushes the whole earth.

And that kingdom of Rome, called Edom in Judaism, is the foundation of every tradition, act, prayer, piece of art and music; design and architecture; political and religious decision in normative Christianity. They are all based on the words of the New Testament; but words that are misunderstood and misapplied because they have been disconnected from the Jewish culture in which they were defined and spoken.

That Hellenism—the Greco-Roman world -- is a world-wide narrative; a world-wide deception. And at its foundation is the deception of the Hellenized Christ; the god-man that developed over the 500 years of the Hellenistic rulers. The god-man with long hair and a short beard and the meek and mild nature of the effeminate Greek rulers who came to reinvent God’s kingdom; who introduced another way to replace God’s way--Judaism.

Believe it or not, I am going to tie in what I have just said with the Torah portion this week. It is a double portion *Tazria* and *Metzora*. Today we are going to shoot forward to near the end of the second Torah portion *Metzora*.

Just like every other Biblical doctrine or belief, there is a horrible misconception about the basic focus of this part of the Bible too. It is about leprosy and lepers. Because of the movie Ben-Hur most people believe that biblical leprosy is some horrible disease that eats away at the fingers and toes and nose and creates lesions on the skin and horribly disfigures those who have it. The leper hides behind rocks and trees and skulks away from the Jewish community living by begging for scraps. There have been other movies like Papillon that showed leper colonies with similarly disfigured people. Well, this is not biblical leprosy. That affliction is called “Hanson’s disease”. In the Torah it is called “*tzara’at*” and the one who has it is called a “*Metzora*” that’s the name of the Torah portion. And it is well described in Torah as swellings, burns, welts, discoloration – nothing about body parts rotting and falling off. And *Tzara’at*—I was shocked to find out—is a miraculous touch by God. It can manifest more commonly in white patches and areas of the skin—like the skin condition “vitaligo”; or rough patches or blotches of red or yellowish or greenish areas like the skin disorders eczema, psoriasis, rosacea, etc.

Also, the area “outside the camp” to which the *metzora* was quarantined was also the community for anyone unclean—unclean in any way; of which there are many. And that area outside the camp was still in the covenant and only outside the camp in physical distance, not spiritual distance. Those dwelling there were still Jews and Gentiles doing Judaism; in the covenant of God; in the community of Israel. No begging. No skulking around in the shadows. So if you were taught this too, you need to first rearrange your mental picture of the *Metzora* to understand any of this fascinating part of the Torah.

In the Talmud discussing the Priests’ checking of the *Metzora*, it says that if the *Tzara’at* appeared during a Festival week or during the wedding week, this examination would be postponed until after that week. So obviously it is not contagious—not an emergency; like quarantining someone with Covid. It does not spread from person to person. Why? Because it is a personal touch from God on the individual.

In the Talmud in **Erchin 16a** it says this: Rabbi Yoḥanan says: Leprous marks come and afflict a person for sinful matters: For malicious speech (or *lashon ha-ra*)... *Tzara'at* is not a normal disease; it is a mark from God directly. Now it may present like vitaligo; psoriasis, eczema, but that does not mean that is what it is. It is a miraculous touch from God.

Maimonides the amazing 12<sup>th</sup> century Rabbi wrote this about *Tzara'at*:

This change that affects clothes and houses, which the Torah described with the general term of *tzara'at*, is not a natural occurrence. Instead, it is a sign and a wonder among the Jewish people to warn them against *lashon hara*. (That's gossip, slander, evil speech) When a person speaks *lashon hara*, the walls of his house change color. If he repents, the house will be purified. If, however, he persists in his wickedness...until the house is destroyed..." And he goes on.

So, with this background in the world that the Torah portion describes, we will look at the Portion dealing with *Tzara'at* not on the flesh, but on a house. **Leviticus 14:33 all the way through verse 53**. Here is part of that portion.

*"When you enter the land of Canaan...and I put a "nega" in Hebrew – that is, a lesion/touch/hit of tzara'at on a house in the land of your possession, the owner of the house shall come and tell the priest, saying, 'like a lesion is visible to me in the house.' The priest shall tell them to empty the house before the priest goes in so that everything in the house need not become unclean; then the priest shall go in to look at the house...*

*if the lesion on the walls of the house has greenish or reddish depressions and appears deeper than the surface, the priest shall come out of the house and quarantine it for seven days. Then the priest shall return on the seventh day and inspect. If the lesion has spread on the walls of the house, the priest shall order them to pull out the stones with the lesion on them and throw them away at an unclean place outside the camp.*

*And he shall scrape out the house all around, and they shall dump the plaster that they scrape off at an unclean place outside the city. Then they shall take other stones and replace the stones, and he shall take other plaster and replaster the house.*

*If, however, the lesion breaks out again in the house after he has pulled out the stones and scraped the house, and replastered it, then the priest shall come in and inspect. If he sees that the lesion has spread...it is unclean, and shall therefore tear down the house, its stones, its timbers, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall take all of it outside the city (or camp) to an unclean place. "If, on the other hand, the priest comes in and inspects and the lesion has not spread in the house after the house has been replastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean because the lesion has not reappeared.*

A house in Scripture is many times a Picture of our physical body. Here is a commentary from **Or HaChaim** on Leviticus 14:37 It says, "The house symbolizes man's body. The priest represents God...The Torah describes that God examines the walls of the house to determine how far the evil inclination has penetrated the body of the person concerned..." That is definitely applicable. But today I want to focus on the HOUSE as something larger—**the House that belongs to God**. God's Body. Christians refer to this as the "Body of Christ." The Body of Messiah was always Israel, and Gentiles are grafted into that Jewish Body.

God owned a house: *Beit Yisrael*: the house of Israel. This was not just the northern tribes that were taken away from the land for doing the ways of the Gentiles; for NOT doing Judaism. They were called *beit Yisrael* long before then.

**Ex. 16:31** *And the house of Israel named the bread manna...*

**Ex.40:38** *For throughout their journeys, the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.*

**Lev. 17:8** *Then you shall say to them, 'Anyone from the house of Israel, or from the Gentiles who reside among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice...*

And there are many others. The HOUSE of Israel was God's camp; God's congregation; God's Body. And Gentiles were invited into this—just as Lev. 17:8 and dozens of other verses say: there were *gerim*; translated as strangers or aliens – *goyim*, Gentiles that lived among the camp of Israel. This is the world that God created, and it functioned for 1,500 years.

Then, we come to the first century and the new Testament, and because of replacement theology that has flipped the entire narrative of history and God's Plan on its head, people think that the

HOUSE of God has changed--that the HOUSE is now a new HOUSE; made up mostly of Gentiles—or worse, that Christians are the New HOUSE of ISRAEL. Many erroneously have come to believe that Jesus came to the gentiles; that God sent a Jewish Messiah; seen in Judaism; prophesied in Judaism; defined in Judaism...to gentiles who knew and know nothing about this Jewish world that defined Him.

So what was said about the HOUSE of God in the New Testament?

In **Ephesians 2**, Sha'ul addresses Gentiles, and he says to them: *remember that you were at that time separate from: 1.Messiah; 2.the people of Israel; 3.the covenants; 4.hope and 5.God in the world. But now in Messiah Yeshua you who previously were far away (from these 5 things) have been brought near by the blood of Messiah (to these 5 things).* And skipping ahead to verse 19 it says: *So then you (gentiles; gerim; strangers, aliens) are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones (the Jews) and are of GOD'S HOUSE...Messiah Yeshua Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing...into a HOUSE of God in the Spirit.*

So that's God's Beit; His house, Israel. And some few Gentiles were brought into that Jewish world to become a part of the House. And as **Acts 15:21** says, they were to go to the synagogue in every city to hear Moses preached. We are a HOUSE.

The writer of Hebrews defined the House of God as a completely Jewish house, as I taught at the beginning of the book of Leviticus. It says this in **Heb. 3**: *“He (Messiah) was faithful to Him who appointed Him, just as Moses also was in all His house. For He (Messiah) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, as much as the builder of the house (that's Messiah) has more honor than the house (Moses).”* The builder of God's house is Messiah, but the house itself is Moses or the Torah. Verse 6 says, *“but Messiah was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are...”*

We who are part of God's HOUSE – what *you* as a Christian might erroneously call “the Church” are called “Moses” a synonym for Torah. The Body of Messiah; the HOUSE of God is supposed to look and act as Moses; as Torah. And you and I both know this is not the case at all. So what will God do about this? That appears in our Torah portion.

He looks at the House; inspects it—to see if it matches Moses; the Torah; Judaism. But what if it doesn't? Does He just turn a blind eye to Hellenism and the Roman foundation of His HOUSE?

The Church, if there is such a thing, is a continuation of Israel and the Jewish world. Then why does it not match Judaism at all? Peter saw and talked about this continuity of the HOUSE of God, just as Paul did. **1 Peter 2** *And coming to Him as to a living stone...you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual HOUSE...*

Each Jew is a stone that makes up the house of God. And then, each Gentile who comes into the Jewish world of God – which is much more rare – is also a stone in those walls of God's HOUSE. Stones were always a picture of the tribes of Israel. The 12 stones on the breastpiece; one per tribe; the 12 stones from the Jordan river placed in the camp in the land of Israel; one per tribe, and other examples.

The HOUSE of God being made up of humans was *not* a new concept. It is found in the Tenach, and the Sages spoke about it a lot. It is all based on Exodus 25:8 *Ve'asu li Mikdash ve'shachanti be'tocham*: “Make for Me a sanctuary and I will dwell IN THEM—in the Jewish people.” This was later expanded from the Tabernacle to the Temple—but the concept had held true for 1,500 years in Israel. God dwells in His people Israel. We are His HOUSE.

Peter, who penned these words about the Body of Messiah being the continuation of the HOUSE of God – Israel, also penned the following words in the same book. **1 Peter 4:17** *“For it is time for judgment to begin with the **house** of God...”*

That was almost 2000 years ago that Peter or Kefa wrote this—it was time for God to judge His HOUSE all the way back then. A generation later, after writing these words, Hellenism had already begun flooding into the Jewish sect of Believers in Yeshua. The Jewish leadership had all been murdered; and Gentiles were coming into the group by the thousands, dragging in their Hellenistic way of life. And the Gentile teachers -- as early as the year 120 CE -- began teaching against the Torah; and pushing those in the HOUSE of God away from Torah and toward Hellenism. Laws began to be passed to divide the HOUSE of God from Judaism, making it increasingly illegal to do or study or move toward Judaism. Thus, Hellenism began to seep in and infect the HOUSE of God. And I believe that the lesion/touch/hit of *tzara'at* in that HOUSE of God is Hellenism; the way of Greece and the way of Rome.

**Lev. 14:37** says: *when he (the priest—a Picture of God) examines the lesion (a Picture of Hellenism), if the lesion in the walls of the house is **made up of** greenish or reddish streaks that appear to go deep into the wall...*

The word for “made up of” is a strange word *sheka’aru’rot* and is hard to translate. Here is what the *Or haChaim* says: The Torah describes that God examines the walls of the house to determine how far the evil inclination has penetrated the body of the person concerned. The word *sheka’aru’rot* may be understood as a composite of the two words *sheka* and *rurot* ... The meaning of the two words would be “the cursed one” (*arur* אָרוּר) “has penetrated deeply” (*shekah* שִׁקַּע).

And it certainly has. So much so that Church-centered societies are identical to the rest of the Hellenistic culture that surrounds it. How much really changed culturally when you repented? If you came into the Body of God you probably came into a Church that does exactly the same cultural societal events and activities that you did before you repented.

God’s HOUSE has been infected. There is a lesion/touch/hit of leprosy that has seeped into the stones and plaster of the HOUSE. It is the lies, the false teachings and unchallenged pride and antisemitic preaching of Hellenism that has infected the walls of the HOUSE. The infection has spread to almost every stone in the HOUSE—at least the part of God’s HOUSE that is called “the Church”.

**Lev. 14:40** says “*the priest shall order the stones with the lesion to be pulled out and cast outside the city in an impure place.*” The stones are people. The priest is God. The House is Israel and the Believers. About this verse, *Siftei Chakhamim* says this: “the house afflicted with lesions — anyone who enters it is impure because of the lesions that are in the house. Similarly, as long as the stones with the lesions are in their place they cause impurity to the place because of the lesions in the stones.”

Whether it be an enormous Catholic cathedral or an American non-denominational Pentecostal modern-day Church, the Hellenism that forms its foundation is impure. And that infection of Hellenism is going to be judged by the priest—God.

The Bible—especially the Torah—is a book of the Spirit. And it is hard to see the way God sees. It is only through Judaism that we get Jewish eyes; the ability to see as God sees. And looking at Christian society, and its foundation of Hellenism is looking at a HOUSE riddled with *sheka--rurot* "the cursed one" (*arur* ארוּר) "has penetrated deeply" (*shekah* שִׁקַּע).

**Lev. 14:41** says: *The house shall be scraped inside all around, and the plaster that is scraped off shall be dumped outside the city in an impure place.*

The Sages say a lot about how much plaster is scraped away. It is not the entire inside of the house which is how it reads in English. But actually, it is only the areas around the infected stones.

I believe that the time of scraping the house has come. It can only be done by God, by the Priest who is God. But I wonder how much scraping will be done—how much destruction will come to the inside of the HOUSE. If every stone is infected with the hypocrisy and idolatry of Hellenism; then the plaster around every stone will be scraped away.

The first century is when Hellenism spread throughout Israel like cancer. It had begun some 150 years prior, and by the year 70 it had destroyed God's HOUSE. And what was the result? Israel was exiled and enslaved and murdered and scattered by the evil Roman empire. If the infection of Hellenism and the Roman kingdom has infected all of the Church—how do you think you will escape the same judgment?

It is time to SCRAPE the HOUSE. I am only saying this because God is now restoring Judaism to His Body. There are now people who may be able to judge properly according to Torah – not according to hellenized Christian mythologies and beliefs. But that pride cannot be judged by those who are part of the problem—the Hellenized belief system. Everything is judged by Torah. And the Priests must be those who do and Understand Torah.

When the priest comes in to judge, there must be a clear and discernable difference between holiness and uncleanness. To make it practical: do you do the thoroughly pagan rites of Christmas, and Easter? Do you believe in the long-haired effeminate christ who brought a new way of peace and love? There must be a difference between the holy and the profane. Holy is Jewish; profane is Hellenistic.

**Lev. 14:42** says: *Then they shall take other stones and replace those stones, and he shall take other mortar and replaster the house.*

People will be pulled from the HOUSE of God like a bad tooth. But they can be replaced by other, better people; people who are hungry to know the true God of Israel; the true *derech* or way of God--Judaism. And again, this is not for just some generic sin. This is for the sin of Hellenism and Replacement Theology.

**Lev. 14:44** says *If, on the other hand, the priest comes in and inspects and the lesion has not spread in the house after the house has been replastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean because the lesion has not reappeared.*

I hope with all my heart that after God judges the Hellenism in His HOUSE, people repent of their idolatry that they have embraced. But I don't see that happening. The reason being that there are dozens of passages in the Tenach that describe it being judged **into oblivion** during the Birthpangs of the Day of the Lord. What I think will happen because of the excessive pride of Hellenism, is seen in the next verses of Leviticus which says: *“if after he has taken away the stones, after he has scraped the house, and after it is replastered...if the plague has spread in the house...It is unclean. And he shall **tear down the house!**”*

This horrible description is prophetic of what is going to happen after the HOUSE of God has been scraped clean of its Hellenism; the countless bad doctrines that stem from misunderstandings of the New Testament, and the many expressions of those bad beliefs in art, music, architecture, politics, etc. That Hellenism will continue until the Day of the Lord comes. And then, what has been called the “Church” will be torn down by God; leaving no stone, timber or plaster. How do we know? Because no such Hellenism is seen to exist in the Messianic Kingdom which is coming soon. It's that simple.

Every vestige of the Greco-Roman filth of Hellenism is going to be purged from the earth and it will be refilled with Judaism. God's ways will all be restored.

The Body of Messiah has a choice to make. You can flee the house that is riddled with the infection of Hellenism. You can change your idolatrous ways and beliefs and turn to the God of Israel Who built His House of Israel; Moses; Torah, or you can double down on your Hellenistic

beliefs and watch as God scrapes the house clean! And if this sin persists, you will watch as God tears the whole House down.

So, it would be wise to pursue your relationship with God now, which will never come through the mythologies told by Hellenistic Christianity, but through the Torah, through Judaism.....Shabbat Shalom.

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