



Parashat Metzora

This week's Parasha discusses the laws of tzara'at (leprosy) which appears on one's house. Sometimes the leprosy is a warning sign that the owner has sinned and needs to do Teshuva. If he ignores this sign and does not repent, it spreads to his clothing and eventually to his actual body.

Other times, however, the leprosy on the owner's home is actually a good sign. When The Jewish nation conquered Eretz Yisrael, many of the non-Jewish residents hid their precious possessions in the walls of their houses before fleeing. Hashem would place leprosy on these walls, forcing the owner to break down the walls, where he would ultimately find a hidden treasure.

One may ask why would Hashem use the same impure method to first scare and then eventually reward a righteous person as he would to punish a person who has actually sinned.

One answer we can give is because we have to realize that everything Hashem does, whether it seems good or bad, is always good. We may not know why some things do not go the way we would like, or even the way we think Hashem would like, but any trial we may go through is something that is good, something that is necessary and something that helps us attain a new level. The righteous man may have needed one last merit, and Hashem is now coaxing him in order to be able to attain his reward.

This may answer another question related to Pesah. Why are we obligated to thank Hashem for freeing us from Egypt if He was the one who put us there in the first place? Would someone thank a doctor who wrongly cuts him open and then stitches him back up again? The answer is that it was necessary for our growth as a nation to be placed in Egypt. Hashem did us a favor, whether we recognize it or not, just as a doctor who knows he needs to cut a person open to save his life and then stitches him back up. This is why we thank Hashem, because everything He does is good.

Shabbat Shalom,

Shelomo Elnadav
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