

April 16, 2024

## Keep the Door of My Mouth

Shalom,

The Torah portion for this week found in **Leviticus 14:1–15:33**, “**Metzora**” (**Person afflicted with Tzar’arat**), gives God’s remedy for those afflicted with a **skin disease**. The Hebrew word is **Tza’arat**, which is wrongly translated in many English translations as leprosy. To gain understanding of this condition, it is helpful to look at the event related in the following verses.

*Then Miriam and Aaron **spoke against Moses** on account of the Cushite woman he married, because he had married a Cushite woman. They asked, “Has ADONAI spoken only through Moses? Hasn’t He also spoken through us?” **ADONAI heard it.***  
(Numbers 12:1-2 TLV)

*ADONAI’s **anger** burned against them, and **He left them.** **When the cloud lifted up** from above the Tent, behold, **Miriam had tza’arat**, like snow! As Aaron turned toward her, behold, she had tza’arat!* (Numbers 12:9-10 TLV)

Please notice that the scriptures do not indicate that God put tza’arat on Miriam. **God was angry and departed.** When He left, the cloud that had been always with them in the wilderness, departed. The cloud was a visible manifestation of God’s presence. Miriam and Aaron speaking against Moses, the leader God had chosen, was so grievous to God that He withdrew His presence. Can you see that **God’s departure left Miriam defenseless when the evil one attacked?** Why was only Miriam afflicted? That is not clear, but it is likely that she instigated the rebellion and was susceptible to the works of the devil.

All this narrative is just another Bible story unless we **allow the Holy Spirit to teach us** how we render ourselves weak and defenseless when we speak evil of the ones He has chosen, not only among leadership, but also when we deride, criticize, and judge one another. God has called His people by His name. They are His very own children, and He is not pleased when we turn our mouths against one another. Never allow evil speaking (gossip) to alienate yourself from God’s wonderful life-giving presence.

*Do not despise God, or curse a ruler of your people.* (Exodus 22:27 TLV)

God, Who is Love, never purposes to harm His own, which is why He precisely instructs us how to remain secure in His presence by teaching us His ways. In His love, He has initiated and supernaturally supplied all that is needed to make us **complete and fit for**

**the presence of God.** In His presence, we are secure and safe from all the power of the enemy who goes about seeking whom he may devour. We can always speak blessings, say good things with our mouths, and shut the door on all wickedness.

*Do not speak evil against one another, brethren. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the Torah and judges the Torah. But if you judge the Torah, you are not a doer of the Torah, but a judge. (James 4:11 TLV)*

YHWH provided a way for Miriam to be cleansed, and for all believers to be free from contamination from the works of the flesh.

*Then I bathed you in **water**, washed the **blood** off you, and anointed you with **oil**. (Ezekiel 16:9 CJB)*

*Don't you know that **you are God's temple and that the Ruach Elohim dwells among you?** (1 Corinthians 3:16 TLV)*

With cleansed lips,  
Terry

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