

Parshat Tazria: Objective Truth vs. Halachic Truth

Shiur prepared by Elliot Kaplowitz for DC Beit Midrash
March 31, 2003
28 Adar II 5763

Leviticus 13:1-8

א וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: ב אִדָּם כִּי-יִהְיֶה בְעוֹר-בְּשָׂרוֹ שָׂאתָ אוֹ-סִפְחַת אוֹ בַהֲרַת וְהִנֵּה בְעוֹר-בְּשָׂרוֹ לִנְגַע צֹרְעַת וְהוּבָא אֶל-אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן אוֹ אֶל-אֶחָד מִבְּנָיו הַכֹּהֲנִים: ג וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן אֶת-הַנְּגַע בְּעוֹר-הַבְּשָׂרָה וְשַׁעַר בִּנְגַע הַפֶּה | לָבֹן וּמְרָאָה הַנְּגַע עִמָּק מֵעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ נָגַע צֹרְעַת הוּא וְרָאָהוּ הַכֹּהֵן וְטָמְא אֹתוֹ: ד וְאִם-בַּהֲרַת לָבֹן הוּא בְּעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ וְעִמָּק אִיוֹ-מְרָאָה מִן-הָעוֹר וְשַׁעֲרָה לֹא-הָפִיךָ לָבֹן וְהִסְגִּיר הַכֹּהֵן אֶת-הַנְּגַע שְׁבַעַת יָמִים: ה וְרָאָהוּ הַכֹּהֵן בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׂבִיעִי וְהִנֵּה הַנְּגַע עִמָּד בְּעֵינָיו לֹא-פָשָׁה הַנְּגַע בְּעוֹר וְהִסְגִּירוֹ הַכֹּהֵן שְׁבַעַת יָמִים שֵׁנִית: ו וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן אֹתוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׂבִיעִי שֵׁנִית וְהִנֵּה כֶּתֶה הַנְּגַע וְלֹא-פָשָׁה הַנְּגַע בְּעוֹר וְטָהַרוּ הַכֹּהֵן מִסִּפְחַת הוּא וְכַבֵּס בְּגָדָיו וְטָהַר: ז וְאִם-פָּשָׁה תִפְשָׁה הַמִּסִּפְחַת בְּעוֹר אַחֲרֵי מְרָאתוֹ אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן לְטַהַרְתּוֹ וְרָאָה שֵׁנִית אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן: ח וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן וְהִנֵּה פְּשִׁתָּהּ הַמִּסִּפְחַת בְּעוֹר וְטָמְאוּ הַכֹּהֵן צֹרְעַת הוּא: ט נָגַע צֹרְעַת כִּי תִהְיֶה בְּאִדָּם וְהוּבָא אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן: י וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן וְהִנֵּה שָׂאתָ-לָבֹנָה בְּעוֹר וְהִיא הַפֶּה שַׁעַר לָבֹן וּמִחֲנֵת בְּשָׂרָה כִּי צֹרְעַת נוֹשְׁנַת הוּא בְּעוֹר בְּשָׂרוֹ וְטָמְאוּ הַכֹּהֵן לֹא יִסְגְּרוּ כִּי טָמֵא הוּא: יב וְאִם-פָּרוּחַ תִּפְרַח הַצֹּרְעַת בְּעוֹר וְכִסְתָּהּ הַצֹּרְעַת אֶת כָּל-עוֹר הַנְּגַע מֵרָאשׁוֹ וְעַד-רִגְלָיו לְכָל-מְרָאָה עֵינֵי הַכֹּהֵן: יג וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן וְהִנֵּה כִסְתָּהּ הַצֹּרְעַת אֶת-כָּל-בְּשָׂרוֹ וְטָהַר אֶת-הַנְּגַע בְּלוֹ הַפֶּה לָבֹן טָהוֹר הוּא: יד **וּבָלוֹם הַרְאוֹת בּוֹ בְּשָׂרָה כִּי יִטְמָא:** טו וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן אֶת-הַבְּשָׂרָה הַכִּי וְטָמְאוּ הַבְּשָׂרָה הַכִּי טָמֵא הוּא צֹרְעַת הוּא: טז אוֹ כִּי יָשׁוּב הַבְּשָׂרָה הַכִּי וְנִהְפָּךְ לָלָבֹן וַיָּבֹא אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן: יז וְרָאָהוּ הַכֹּהֵן וְהִנֵּה נִהְפָּךְ הַנְּגַע לָלָבֹן וְטָהַר הַכֹּהֵן אֶת-הַנְּגַע טָהוֹר הוּא:

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling, a rash or a discoloration, and it develops into a scaly affection on the skin of his body, **he shall be brought to Aaron** the priest or to one of his sons, the priests. The priest shall examine the affection on the skin of his body: if hair in the affected patch has turned white and the affection appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is *tzara'at*; when the priest sees it, he shall pronounce him unclean. But if it is a white discoloration on the skin of his body which does not appear to be deeper than the skin and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest shall isolate the affected person for seven days. On the seventh day the priest shall examine him, and if the affection has remained unchanged in color and the disease has not spread on the skin, the priest shall isolate him for another seven days. On the seventh day the priest shall examine him again: if the affection has faded and has not spread on the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean. It is a rash; he shall wash his clothes and he shall be clean. But if the rash should spread on the skin after he has presented himself to the priest and been pronounced clean, he shall present himself again to the priest. And if the priest sees that the rash has spread on the skin, the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is leprosy. When a person has a scaly affection, it shall be reported to the priest. If the priest finds on the skin a white swelling which has turned some hair white, with a patch of undischored flesh in the swelling, it is chronic leprosy on the skin of his body, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean; he need not isolate him, for he is unclean. If the eruption spreads out over the skin so that it covers all the skin of the affected person from head to foot, wherever the priest can see -- if the priest sees that the eruption has covered the whole body -- he shall pronounce the affected person clean; he is clean, for he has