

Quarantine: A Poetic Interpretation of Leviticus 13



As quarantines and lockdowns spread, the descriptions of *tzara-at* in Leviticus 13 (*Parashat Tazria/M'tzora*) come to mind. *Tzara-at* refers to a scaly skin affliction that caused people to sent "outside of the camp" into quarantine so they wouldn't spread *tzara-at* to others.

A *m'tzora*, a person with *tzara-at*, would be examined by the priest to determine whether they could wait for a recheck in seven days or actually had to go into isolation until they were healed. Even after they were pronounced healthy, they had to wash thoroughly before returning to the community.

The Divine names in the last sentence are found in the Gevurot, the second blessing of the **Amidah**, and the Morning Blessings (*nissim b'chol yom*, for

Suddenly

Vast swaths of Leviticus come into new focus