

ARE WE READY FOR משיח?

Issue 3

שאל נא את הכהנים תורה

Q. Can I shake someone's hand on שבת and טוב יום, and assume he is טהור, or do I have to be חושש that he is טמא?

Q. Is a plastic chair טומאה מקבל?

Q. I am trying very hard to keep the house טהור but someone that's טמא opened up the fridge, do I have to be toivel my fridge?

Q. Is a closed plastic container considered a צמיד פתיל?

Q. When John bowed down to me, he refused to wear a face mask, and as he was begging to help, a bit of his saliva went on me, did I become טמא?

הלכתא למשיחא

The נביא says, ובלע המות לנצח, Hashem will destroy death, and there will be no more death any more, nevertheless it's important to learn the הלכות of טומאת מת, for two reasons, firstly because we don't know when that will happen, it doesn't have to happen right when משיח comes. Secondly there is a מחלוקת if גויים have טומאת מת, there are שיטות that they are מטמא even באהל, others hold that they are מטמא only במגע ומשא, and there are those that hold that they have no טומאה. The רמ"א rules that one should be מחמיר even באהל. This is going to be extremely prevalent in the 7 months after ומגוג when מלחמת גוג ומגוג there will be a lot of dead גויים lying on the mountains of ארץ ישראל until they finish burying the גויים.

There are many levels of טומאה: a מת is the highest level of טומאה, and it's called הטומאה אבי. There are 3 ways a מת is מטמא, either through מגע that is touching the מת with any part of your body, or through משא which means lifting the מת even without touching it, and included in משא is היסט which means moving the מת for example you move the מת with a beam, and through אהל which means either you or any part of your body is over the מת, or the מת is over any part of your body, or you are under the same roof as a מת.

Any person or המקבל טומאה, כלי, or clothing item becomes טמא and needs in order to become טהור, to be sprinkled with the מי טבול on the third and seventh day of becoming טמא, after that he or the כלי has to immerse in a מקוה and after that he is a טבול טהור and at night he is totally טהור.

The תורה says בחלל חרב "and all that touch in the open field someone who was killed by the sword", and the word חרב is extra, so חז"ל said that this teaches that the sword has the same level of טומאה as the מת and it is מטמא just like a מת, and just like a מת is מטמא אדם וכלים and they become הטומאה אב so to a חרב.

Now there are 3 opinions amongst the ראשונים what is included in a חרב, חלל חרב, many (רש"י ורא"ש) hold it includes any מת that became טמא from the מת either through מגע or אהל if you come in contact with that you become an אב הטומאה. Many (רמב"ם פ"ה ה"ג מט"מ ור"י מסימפונט נזיר שם) hold that this applies to any גר"א besides a חרב, and there is an opinion (ר"ח פסחים יג: בשם גאונים) that holds it only applies to the sword that killed the מת.

There is also a dispute amongst the ראשונים in what form of contact with the חרב חלל do you become אב הטומאה, some ראשונים hold even if you are in the same אהל others hold only במגע ומשא and the א"ג holds only through מגע.

Another point the ראשונים disagree upon is, that even if he is טמא for 7 days, does he need to be sprinkled with מי חטאת. All these disputes will be decided by the סנהדרין. (כל זה מלוקט מספר חשקת שלמה לר' יצחק הערשפט שליט"א)

So for example: you got ready to do the פסח קרבן and you did הזאה on everyone at home and all the items and clothing in your house, and you came home to get your kittel, and you realized you forgot to do הזאה on your car keys that were with you in a אהל המת, it is a big dispute amongst the ראשונים did you just become טמא by walking in the room, or only if you moved it (even by means of moving something else that caused the keys to move), or only if you touched it.

Answers to last week's questions

Q. I was by levaya, and the next day I put on my teffilin, do I have to be toivel them?

A. yes (כלים פי"ח מ"ח, מקואות פ"י מ"ב)

Q. I was on my way to the בית המקדש and I touched someone as I was passing by, do I have to be חושש that this person was אב הטומאה and I am טמא?

A. you go by what רוב of the people there are (טהרות פ"ה מ"ז)

Q. this happened in the first 7 month after מלחמת גוג ומגוג was over, there was a lot of dead גויים all over the mountains, I was passing by holding a stick over a dead body, did I become טמא?

A. if the stick has a circumference of a טפח then according to the פוסקים that hold a גוי is באהל מטמא, then you are טמא.

Q. I picked up a tissue from the floor in shul, did I become טמא?

A. חז"ל were גוזר on any רוק that is found, (as long that it is not so dry that it wouldn't help to soak it in water to get it damp again), and מי האף is included in רוק. Even if you lift the רוק without touching it (טהרות פ"ד מ"ו). According to the רא"ש (טהרות פ"ז) it is only if it is known that there is a שוטה or a גוי in the city. In ירושלים it depends on the area (שקלים פ"ז מ"א).

Q. my neighbor whose husband is an am haaretz (didn't yet חבירות), walked in to my house to pick up her kid when I wasn't home, do I have to be toivel everything in the house that's טומאה?

A. no because she is afraid to touch anything since she entered without permission, (טהרות פ"ח מ"ה).

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

When someone in the house was טמא they had a special room to quarantine? (נדה פ"ז מ"ד)

There were special areas designated for people that were טמא and they kept social distancing? (ירושלמי שקלים פ"ז מ"א) (ופסחים יט:)

You have to be very careful when speaking to a גוי or an עם הארץ, that he doesn't spit on you, and the best way to protect yourself, is if he wears a face mask.

The amount of time it takes to practice to become a חבר according to (בכורות ל:) is twelve months.

Could it be that one of Hashems reasons for corona is to help ease the transition to a world of טהרה, so that we can bring the פסח this year? (כהלכה פסח קרבן פסח) יבא אל היכלו פתאום so let us make sure we are ready.