

Leviticus Chapters 12 & 13

- We come to the laws concerning a woman and child birth, ceremonial uncleanness and ritual cleansing.
- Serious, contagious skin diseases.

V: 1-2 The Lord speaks unto Moses.

- When a woman bears a male child she shall be unclean – for 7 days, as in the days of the “separation of her infirmity”.
- This refers to a ceremonial uncleanness, and to ritual cleansing.
- When a woman was in her menstrual cycle she was considered to be unclean during that time, (Lev. Ch. 15) and here after child birth she is basically in the same condition.

V: 3 Circumcision was the sign of the covenant between God and His people, an ordinance that began with Abram in Genesis Ch. 17.

- Circumcision was to take place on the 8th day: From a physiological standpoint it is on the 8th day of a child’s life that their blood develops the ability to coagulate.
- Circumcision is a sign, a token, and identification as being party to the covenant.
- Every male was to be circumcised on the 8th day. Technically a man wasn’t a Jew or a part of the covenant until he was circumcised.
- Circumcision was a physical act that was intended to demonstrate a spiritual reality.
- Over time, circumcision became a mere tradition, having lost it’s meaning.
- The meaning of circumcision was clear in the beginning:

Deuteronomy 10:12-16 ¹²“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, ¹³to keep the commandments of the Lord, and His statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? ¹⁴Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord’s thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. ¹⁵Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. ¹⁶Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.”

- Circumcision like baptism is an outward expression of an inward change.
- Commanded as a sign of God's covenant.
- A sign not only to the individual concerned, but to his parents, and eventually to his wife.

Parents: showed they had been faithful and that God had blessed their union, and that they were following God's will.

Wife: She had assurance that he was a descendant of Abraham, to whom she could joyfully submit.

Man: had a daily testimony and reminder that he and his family were consecrated to God.

- Physically and symbolically there was a cutting or removal, a complete separation from the sins of the flesh.

V: 4 If she had born a male child she was to be unclean for 7 days, then there was a purifying process that lasted for 33 days, for a total of 40 days. During that time she couldn't touch holy things or enter into the sanctuary / Tabernacle until the days of her purification were complete.

V: 5 If she bore a girl she was unclean for 14 days, twice as long, and she was to continue in her purification for 66 days + 14 days, 80 days total.

- Apart from a discussion about clean and un-clean, this amounted to a break for the new mom. She was taken care of, wasn't expected to do her normal work, visitors were very limited, she wasn't to leave her home – she just kind of hung out a nursed her child. God's kindness and care for a new mom are evident in these verses.
- So if a woman bore a child she would be contagiously unclean for 7 or 14 days depending on the gender of the child. Anything she might touch would become unclean. After that she was only unclean to herself; in either event she had to refrain from touching holy things, including partaking of the meat from the offerings or going to the sanctuary.
- This is just another illustration on keeping the unclean, the profane separate from that which is Holy.

Jeremiah 15:16-19

“¹⁶Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts. ¹⁷I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou has filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? Wilt thou be altogether unto me

as a liar, and as waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus saith the Lord, if thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before Me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.”

V: 6-8 After the days of her purification either the 40 or the 80 days she is to present a lamb for a burnt offering or offering of consecration, and a turtle dove for a sin offering.

- The burnt offering symbolized her commitment to raise that child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Isaiah 51:5 “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

- What iniquity, what sin is being spoken of here? The original sin, and our inherent sin nature.
- This speaks to the doctrine of the depravity of man:
- If she is too poor for a lamb, she can bring two turtle doves or two pigeons.

Luke 2:21-24 ²¹And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, His name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before He was conceived in the womb. ²²And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought Him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; ²³As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that opened the womb shall be called holy to the Lord; ²⁴And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

- Our Lord had very humble earthly beginnings, but He fulfilled every part of the Law.

Leviticus Chapter 13

This chapter is broken down into two main sections: V: 1-46, serious skin diseases / leprosy. V: 47-58, skin type diseases – mold or mildew in clothing.

“Leper” – [Leprosy = type of sin, analogy.](#)

Leviticus 14:4 “Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop.”

Psalms 51:7 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

- [We’re all leprous.](#)

Romans 3:10 ³“As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23 “²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

- “Leprosy” = “**smitten**” in Hebrew – serious skin diseases that don’t heal.

Isaiah 1:5-6 “⁵Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. ⁶From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”

Jeremiah 30:12-13 “¹²For thus saith the Lord, thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous. ¹³There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.”

- A modern day equivalent might be AIDS / Poison oak...
- Talmud’s (Jewish commentary on the Law) listing of “defilements”:
#1 is death
#2 is leprosy.

Leprosy described: (in more clinical terms)

1. Skin takes on a hard, glossy appearance.
 2. Open running sores.
 3. Progressive / spreads, nerves become numb, “de-sensitized”.
 4. Living gangrene.
 5. Face swells, develops folds, lion like appearance, nose disappears.
 6. Decaying dead odor can be smelled from over 100’ away.
 7. Incurable, progressive, can take up to 30 years to kill you.
- Seems to be a picture of or modern society.
 - Upon being diagnosed with leprosy the individual became an automatic outcast. (Division / separation)

Outcast: You can almost see how it would play out. Working in a field and the initial discovery. Attempted treatment, no progress or healing. Seen by a priest, diagnosed and immediately separated from wife, children, family, and friends. No farewells, no hugs goodbye, quarantined.

- If a leper was able to travel and came within sight of another non-leper they were to call out “un-clean, unclean” to warn others to stay away.
 - If they came into a town or village and were recognized as a leaper they would be driven out with stones. They were not allowed to live within a walled city.
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V: 1-3 The High Priest or one of his sons was to inspect the sore, they were to look upon it. We have a great High Priest who knows and sees all.

Hebrews 4:12-13 “¹²For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

- There are no secrets from God, we are always open to His inspection.

Psalms 139:1-3 “¹O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. ²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.”

- Indications of leprosy: An open sore, a raised area, a whitened hair in the midst, more than skin deep.
- A whitened hair was an indication that something below the surface had affected the normal color of the hair which would have been dark.
- Leprosy being analogous to sin, a type of sin – is always more than skin deep. There is what you see, and there is what lies just below the surface.
- With sin the issue is always something deeper – it's our heart: depravity of man.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing:...”

- There is no cure for leprosy, just as there is no cure for a wicked heart – there must be regeneration, we must be born again.

Ezekiel 36:26 “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

- The last word in this verse is “unclean” which appears 21 times in this chapter.
- **Unclean:** (H2931) tame', tau-may'; foul in a religious sense; defiled, infamous, polluted, unclean.
- This may be stating the obvious; but what we see here is that leprosy, or sin defiles us, makes us unfit for social life, or for participation in worship at the house of God, unacceptable or un-usable.

Romans 8:7-8 “⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

V: 4-8 If it doesn't look skin deep at first, and the hair doesn't turn white – then he shall be put in quarantine for 7 days to see what happens.

- If it darkens and doesn't spread, looks like it's healing, he shall remain for another 7 days just to be sure.
- But if it spreads – he shall be pronounced unclean – it's leprosy.
- In a similar way, unless sin is put in check, unless it is dealt with in a Biblical manner it too will spread.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

V: 9-11 There are some types of leprosy that are easy to identify, while others need closer examination – and you can only tell through time.

- If it is obviously leprosy, then there is no need for an additional week and further examination – it simply needs to be dealt with.

Matthew 18:8-9 “⁸Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. ⁹And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”

- Same with sin, sometimes it's obvious, at other times it take time to see it for what it is – but once it is recognized; deal with it.

12-13 When it was observed that the leprosy covered the person completely and turned white, it considered to not be active – and he was pronounced clean.

- When we too were convicted by the Holy Spirit and realized that we're sinners from head to toe – conviction leading to confession would lead to cleansing.

V: 14-17 “But” – contrasting from the previous – if there is an open sore, then it is a leprosy and they are unclean.

- This is like a relapse in faith, once saved yet returning to a sinful life.

1 John 3:6, 9 “⁶Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him.” - “⁹Whosoever is born of God doeth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

- This isn't talking about those who are saved yet struggle with sin, this refers to those who abide in sin – who weren't really clean to begin with.

V: 18-23 This passage describes a boil or sore that once appeared to be healed, and is clean. It could also later prove to be leprous.

- Sin can also have the same attributes.

2 Peter 2:20-21 “²⁰For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

V: 24-40

40-44 Baldness is ok, still clean. If there are sores – the “leprosy has sprung up on his bald head...”

V: 44 The leprosy upon the head, makes the whole man leprous.

- Where the head goes the body follows.
- If the mind and heart are leprous, then the man is leprous.

James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

V: 45 The clothing of the leper shall be torn. This was a common expression of grief and mourning – sin brings grief, we are to be grieved over our sin.

- Sin causes us to go about life in rags.

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

V: 46 Leprosy, sin separates us from God, and from men.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

1 Corinthians 5:11, 13b “¹¹But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; which such an one no not to eat.” – “^{13b}... therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

V: 47-52 The garment or covering that has leprosy in it shall be burnt.

- Sin leads to burning... (52, 55, 57)

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

Isaiah 66:24 “And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worms shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”

James 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

V: 53-59

Summary:

V: 3 Sin is always more than skin deep.

V: 8 Sin spreads.

V: 44 Sin in our heart & mind make us unclean.

V: 45 Sin results in grief.

V: 46 Sin lead to separation from God and from man.

V: 52 Sin leads to burning.

- The consequences of leprosy were temporal, but the consequences of sin are eternal.
- In each instance the priest was the final authority, he determined what would happen with that person. Our great High Priest is also our judge, He makes that final determination.
- The Jews knew no cure for leprosy, but there is a remedy for sin – that is faith in Jesus Christ.