

Leviticus Chapter 14

In Isaiah Ch. 13 we learned;

- 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 phrase “un-clean” was used 21 times.
 - **Unclean**: (H2931) tame', tau-may'; foul in a religious sense; defiled, infamous, polluted, unclean.
 - You have to understand the “bad news” before you can appreciate the “good news.”
 - Now we address the day of his “cleansing”.
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This chapter can be broken down into an outline of three main sections:

- V: 1-20 The cleansing of a leper and the regular sacrifices that pertain to the cleansing.
 - V: 21-32 The cleansing of a leper, and the modification of the sacrifices to accommodate one that is poor and cannot afford or obtain the regular sacrifices that pertain to the cleansing.
 - V: 33-55 The identification and cleansing of a leprosy / mold in a house or dwelling place.
 - V: 56-57 Last couple of closing verses.
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- Another interesting fact about leprosy is that it is seemingly very random, no one knows for sure exactly how it is contracted. They've done experiments trying to inject people with it, and nothing happened, other's have worked around lepers for years and not contracted it, or it has taken them years to get it – it's still a mystery.

Very much like what Paul describes:

2 Thessalonians 2:7 “The mystery of iniquity....”

V: 1-2 The cleansing of the leper. Being analogous to sin, knowing that only God can forgive our sins, only God can cleanse us.

- There are instances in the Bible where someone was cleansed or healed from their leprosy, but God was always directly involved.

Numbers 12:10 “And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.”

- God determined that this would last 7 days and she would be restored, cleansed.

2 Kings 5: Naaman, Syrian General, leper who was told by Elisha to dip himself 7 times in the Jordan River, he resisted at first, but when we was obedient to the word of God through Elisha – he was healed.

Matthew 8:2-4 “²And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. ³And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus saith unto him, see thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.”

- Every time a leper was healed, God was directly involved.

V: 2 This is all very interesting considering that there was no known cure for leprosy, at least not in human terms or wisdom.

- On the day of his “cleansing”.
- Cleansing (H-2893) tohorah, toh-or-aw'; purification; moral purity, cleansing.
- He is brought to the priest, the same one who had witnessed his leprosy and pronounced him un-clean.
- We don't actually see this employed until Matthew Ch. 8.

V: 3 The priest is to go out to the leper as opposed to the leper coming into the camp.

- The lepers lived just outside of the city in what amounted to being the dump. Near the “Dung Gate” there was a portion of the wall where the people would dump their trash over the wall, it was usually smoky from all the fires that were continually burning, thus the name Gehenna, the valley of Gehenna or continual burnings. Another name for hell.
- The priest would go outside the city to this place and meet the leper and examine him. If the leprosy had not spread any further, if the skin had gone back from it's fiery red appearance, or the whiteness had gone away and returned to a normal skin tone, then he would be brought back into the city.

- Once it had been established that the leper had been healed the priest was to initiate this process:

V: 4 The priest is to make provision for the leper to be cleansed: things that are to be provided for the leper that he might not be able to obtain.

1. 2 birds, alive and clean (doves or pigeons).
2. Cedar wood.
3. Scarlet.
4. Hyssop.

V: 5 One of the birds would be killed in an earthen vessel.

- Sin always brings death, always.

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Matthew 3:16 describes Jesus being baptized, and that as He came out of the water the Holy Spirit in the shape or form of a dove descended upon Him.

John 1:14 “And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” God in an earthen vessel.

- God which at times has been represented as a dove was placed in an earthen, fleshly vessel, and killed – for the remission of sins.
- Over running water, living water – which represents the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus’ life and ministry was filled with and led by the Holy Spirit:

Luke 4:1 “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”

Luke 4:14 “And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee:...”

V: 6 The one bird is killed, his blood being shed, the remaining bird – combined with the cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop are dipped / covered in the blood of the first.

- Cedar wood: the Bible doesn’t give us all the details of every account that we read about, there are things left unanswered.

As Paul puts it:

1 Corinthians 13:12 “For now we see through a glass darkly...”

- My bet is that one day, when all things are revealed, and we know as we're known – we'll learn that the cross of Jesus was made of cedar.
- Scarlet – represents blood or a blood sacrifice.
- Hyssop – represents cleansing, and serves as a reminder.

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

- Hyssop, a reminder - was also used during the Passover:

Exodus 12:22 “And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin...”

- So at this point the living bird, the cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop are covered in the blood of the sacrificed bird.
- Bear in mind that this picture of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us is being painted 1,500 years before He was born.

V: 7 Now the leper himself is to be sprinkled 7 times – and is pronounced clean.

- Naaman had to dip himself into the Jordan river 7 X's.
- The living bird is then set free into the open field. One dies, another is set free, a substitutionary sacrifice.
- This represents both Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven.
- This also represents the life of the believer being set free from the power of sin and death, covered in the blood of the Lamb.

John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

V: 8 Washing of the clothes, shave off all his hair, wash himself in water – a general washing.

- The one being cleansed was to be a part of the process that leads to ceremonial cleanness.

2 Corinthians 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

- We have a role to play.
- Washing, then waiting 7 days, out side his tent – not quite home.

- Often times when someone has been involved in a sin, and there is repentance, there is a need to walk in that repentance for a season as part of the restoration process.

V: 9 On the 7th day, the same process repeated: all his hair, head, beard, eye brows – every thing.

- Wash his clothes again, bathe again – and he shall be clean.
- Taking on the appearance of a new born babe: which is symbolic as well.

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

- A fresh start, a 2nd chance!

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

V: 10 The 8th day – is significant; the new beginning: 7th day was Shabbat / Saturday / Sabbath.

- The 8th day was Sunday. Jesus rise from the dead on the 8th day.
 - Pentecost, the birth of the church was also birthed on the 8th day.
 - He shall gather together the things necessary to make the various required offerings on the 8th day, his new beginning.
1. 2 rams without blemish.
 2. One ewe lamb / female sheep, in it's first year, without blemish.
 3. 3 1/10th deals of fine flour, mingled with oil – intended for a meal / thank offering.
 4. A “log” of oil. (1/2 pint) (.67 pint)

- Being cleansed from our sin is costly:

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

V: 11 The man was then presented to the Lord at the door of the Tabernacle.

- When the priest presented something at the door to the Tabernacle is was usually sacrificed.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- This was to be a personal experience, not a representative one.

Our great High Priest, Jesus does the same with us:

Jude 24 “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,”

V: 12-13 The beginning of the offerings: The way to God is always through sacrifice.

1. Trespass offering & sin offering: dealing with the sin of the man.
2. Burnt offering; the offering of consecration.
3. Wave offering, part of the burnt offering or meal offering, acknowledging God's provision.
 - The acknowledging of and dealing with sin.
 - Dedicating one's life to God.
 - Giving thanks and praise to God. I'm clean! I'm yours!

V: 14-20 Elaborating on the burnt offering, specific aspects of consecration – being set apart for God's use.

- This is the same basic process that the priests went through, as their lives were dedicated to serving God and His people.
 1. Sacrificial blood on the right ear, thumb, big toe.
 2. Sacrificial oil on the right ear, thumb, big toe.
 3. Blood first, then the oil.
 4. Lord forgive me, a sinner – the blood applied, then the Holy Spirit comes to reside in us. (Sealed with the Holy Spirit)
- Ears inclined to hear the word of God, hands set to the work of God, feet directed to walking with God.

Eventually we come to the understanding that Paul described:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “¹⁹What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

- Here we have a man who once had leprosy which was essentially a death sentence, no cure, no way out.
- We know that all healing, all forgiveness comes from God – now he's clean – he is a debtor to God, a debt that he could never repay.

- Oh, the desperation of his situation previously, and now – he’s clean.
- I’d say that all of our lives were once like that – leprous, unclean, defiled – we all had the death sentence of sin.

Jesus taught us:

Luke 7:47 *Those who are forgiven much, love much – those who are only forgiven a little, love little.*

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- Lord I give you my life!

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of god, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

- This all seems very appropriate as we are called to be a kingdom of priests:

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- We’ve seen as the priesthood was consecrated to the Lord, they poured oil on them, lots of it. We’ll see later that kings and prophets will receive the same treatment.
- I’ve known this for a while, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil – different men filled these offices but only Jesus fulfilled all of them.
- Something else I learned this week is that we can add leper’s to that list, which blows me away. Prophets, priests, kings, and lepers.

Jesus fulfilled that one too:

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

V: 21-32 This is the same basic process except that God makes provision for the poor, who can’t necessarily afford all the required sacrificial elements.

- One lamb as opposed to 2 rams, and a ewe lamb. Less fine flour, 1/10th instead of 3/10th deal. Still the log of oil – still need the Spirit.
- There is still the minimum standard – a lamb.

John 1:29 "... behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

- Apart from the Lamb of God, apart from Jesus – there is no cleansing.
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V: 33-53 Describes when a house has leprosy; different kinds of mold, or rottenness that can infect a home.

- Same basic process: examination, quarantine, re-examination, removal / demolition as needed – taken to an unclean place outside the camp / city.
- The cure is always the same – Jesus, the cleansing blood of Jesus.
- Sometimes when a leper who has been cleansed gets home, the house needs to be cleansed as well.
- This isn't just about houses, but households. The cure for the individual is the same as for the entire house.

Acts 16:31-34 ³¹And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³²And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing God with all his house."

Testimony: Dean & Theresa Peters

Summary:

V: 54-57 Leprosy, sin – whether a rich man, or a poor man, or a household – the remedy is the same:

- God manifest in an earthen vessel, Jesus; guided by the Spirit, the living water, a cross of cedar, scarlet – sacrificed for our sins.

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."