

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: Laws for Cleansing Lepers

Chapter 14

26 October 2022



➤ Cleansing lepers (vv. 1-32)

- ❖ God spoke to Moses. (v. 1)
- ❖ The law regarding the day of a leprous person's cleansing. (vv. 2-32)
 - ☐ He was brought to the priest. (v. 2)
 - ☐ The priest would go out of the camp to see if the leprous person was healed. (v. 3)
 - ☐ The priest commanded the following things to happen...if the person was healed. (v. 4)
 - I. In order to cleanse him, two live birds were brought.
 - II. Additionally, cedarwood, scarlet yarn, & hyssop would also be brought.
 - ☐ They killed one of the birds, in an earthen vessel, over fresh water. (v. 5)
 - ☐ The priest would take the live bird, cedarwood, scarlet yarn, & hyssop... (v. 6)
 - ☐ ...he dipped these items in the dead bird's blood.
 - ☐ The priest sprinkled the blood seven times on the formerly diseased person. (v. 7)
 - ☐ The priest proclaimed the person clean. He released the living bird into the open field.
 - ☐ The one to be cleansed washed his clothes. Shaved his head. Bathed himself in water. (v. 8)
 - ☐ Once completed, he could return into the camp, but he lived outside his tent seven days.
 - ☐ On day seven, the formally leprous person would... (v. 9)
 - Shave off all his hair – head, beard, & eyebrows.
 - Wash his clothes.
 - Bathe his body in water.
 - Then, he would be clean.
 - ☐ On day eight, he would... (v. 10)
 - ...take two male lambs, without blemish.
 - ...take a 1-year-old ewe lamb, without blemish.
 - ...a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah (22 liters) of fine flour mixed with oil.
 - ...one log (1/3 quart) of oil.
 - ☐ The priest would set the man, and these things, before the LORD at the tabernacle. (v. 11)
 - ☐ The priest would take one male lamb & offer it as a guilt offering, w/the log of oil. (v. 12)
 - ☐ He would wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.
 - ☐ Kill the lamb where the sin and burnt offerings were killed. (v. 13)
 - ☐ Both the sin and burnt offerings belonged to the priest. It was most holy.



- ☐ The priest took some of the blood of the guilt offering and... (v. 14; 8:24)
 - ...placed it on lobe of the right ear of the person to be cleansed.
 - ...on the thumb of his right hand.
 - ...on the big toe of his right foot.
 - Symbolized cleansing and restoration - total obedience and service to God.
- ☐ The priest took oil and poured it on the palm of the person's left hand. (v. 15)
- ☐ The person dipped his right finger in the oil & sprinkled it 7 times before the LORD. (v. 16)
- ☐ From the oil remaining, the priest placed it on the... (v. 17)
 - ...placed it on lobe of the right ear of the person to be cleansed.
 - ...on the thumb of his right hand.
 - ...on the big toe of his right foot...on top of the blood of the guilt offering.
- ☐ The priest placed the remaining oil on the head of the person being cleansed. (v. 18)
- ☐ The priest offered the sin offering to make atonement for him being cleansed. (v. 19)
- ☐ Afterwards, the priest killed the burnt offering.
- ☐ The priest offered the burnt and grain offerings on the altar. (v. 20)
- ☐ Once completed, the priest made atonement for the person, making him clean once more.
- ☐ If the person was poor, & could not afford so much, he did the following... (vv. 21-22)
 - ...take one male lamb for a guilt offering, which was to be waved. (v. 21)
 - The guilt offering made atonement for him.
 - ...a 1/10th of an ephah (22 liters) of fine flour mixed w/oil for a grain offering.
 - ...a log (1/3 quart) of oil.
 - ...brought two turtledoves, or two pigeons – whichever he could afford. (v. 22)
 - One a sin offering. The other a burnt offering.
- ☐ On day 8, he would bring them to the priest for his cleansing, before the LORD at the tabernacle. (v. 23)
- ☐ The priest took the lamb (guilt offering), the log of oil, and waved them before God. (v. 24)
- ☐ The priest followed the same steps as given in verses 15-20. (vv. 25-31)
- ☐ This was God's law for a leprous person, who could not afford the offerings for his cleansing. (v. 32)

➤ Cleansing leper's houses (vv. 33-53)

- ❖ God spoke to Moses. (v. 33)
- ❖ In Canaan, in a house in which God placed a leprous disease, amongst the Israelites. (v. 34)
- ❖ The one who discovered the disease in his house went to the priest. (v. 35)
- ❖ The priest would command the occupants to empty the house before his visit. (vv. 36-42)
- ☐ This precluded all in the house being labeled unclean. (v. 36)



- ❑ After everything was out of the house, the priest would enter & inspect the premises.
- ❑ He examined the disease. (vv. 37-38)
 - He found the disease (green or red spots) in the walls. (v. 37)
 - It appeared to be deeper than the surface.
 - The priest would exit the house and close it up for seven days. (v. 38)
- ❑ If the disease spread... (vv. 39-42)
 - The priest returned on the day 7. (v. 39)
 - Then the priest would have the diseased stones removed. (v. 40)
 - They carried the stones into an unclean place outside the city.
 - They would scrape the interior walls of the house. (v. 41)
 - The plaster scraped off the walls would be taken in an unclean place outside the city.
 - Then, they brought in new stones to replace the old stones taken out. (v. 42)
 - They would apply new plaster on the interior walls of the house.
- ❑ If the disease returned... (vv. 43-47)
 - ...the priest would go and look. (v. 44)
 - If it spread, the priest declared the house unclean.
 - They would tear down the house – stones, timbers, everything. (v. 45)
 - They would carry all the materials outside the city to an unclean place.
 - Whoever entered the house while it was shut up was unclean until evening. (v. 46)
 - Whoever slept in the house during that time washed his clothes. (v. 47)
 - Whoever ate in the house washed his clothes.
- ❑ After 7 days, if the disease did not return after all repairs were made... (vv. 48-53)
 - ...the priest pronounced the house clean, because the disease was healed.
 - The priest took two small birds, cedarwood, scarlet, & hyssop. (v. 49)
 - He killed one of the birds, in an earthen vessel over fresh water. (v. 50)
 - He would take the live bird, cedarwood, hyssop, & scarlet yarn and dip them in the blood of the bird that was killed. (v. 51)
 - The priest sprinkled the house seven times.
 - With all these implements and fresh water, he cleansed the house. (v. 52)
 - The priest would release the live bird to go out of the city into the open country. (v. 53)
 - The priest successfully made atonement for the house. It would be clean.

➤ This is the law for any case of leprous disease: (vv. 54-57)

- ❖ Itch... (v. 54)
- ❖ ...in a garment, or in a house. (v. 55)
- ❖ On the body, causing swelling, or an eruption, even a spot. (v. 56)
- ❖ Unclean, or clean. (v. 57)



Group Questions

- 1) A word study of key Hebrew terms in Genesis 2:15 is necessary to obtain a proper understanding of what the verse actually means. First is the word “put”. There are two senses of the word in this verse: 1) God placed man in the garden to *rest* and *be safe*; and 2) God placed man in the garden to be *in God’s presence* where man could have *fellowship with God*. Second, a more suitable translation of “to work it and keep it” would be to “*worship and obey God*.” Discuss the significance of the given meanings with God’s expectations of the way Jews lived then, and how Christians should live today.

- 2) There are two major themes throughout the Law, the Torah, & the Pentateuch - the first five books of the Bible. Namely, the theme of worship and the theme of Sabbath rest. Consider these themes as you contemplate this chapter’s focus – cleansing lepers. Discuss with the group which theme applies to this chapter. Then, discuss how this helps you understand what God is communicating.

- 3) By itself, the book of Leviticus is a further and deeper unfolding of the divine-human relationship, given by God on Mount Sinai. Leviticus’ content was given less than a month after the construction of the tabernacle. This book is concerned with what it means for Jews to be the holy people of God. In light of that truth, discuss why this chapter is important in ancient Jews daily lives.

- 4) Ponder one other takeaway you obtained from this chapter and write it down.

