

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: Laws About Bodily Discharges

Chapter 15

2 November 2022



- God spoke to Moses and Aaron. (v. 1)
- Bodily discharges (vv. 2-3)
 - ❖ “...*discharge from his body*...” (v. 2)
 - ☐ It is safe to say this section is all inclusive.
 - ☐ This covers diarrhea.
 - ☐ Any unnatural discharge – semen, or venereal disease (gonorrhea).
 - ❖ The law regarding unnatural discharge, and the uncleanness from it. (v. 3)
- Stringent regulations pertaining to physical uncleanness (vv. 4-12)
 - ❖ These prohibitions better fit diarrhea – i.e., the scourge of cholera.
 - ❖ Every bed where one laid with an unnatural discharge was unclean. (v. 4)
 - ❖ Everything he sat on was unclean.
 - ❖ Anyone who touched his bed... (v. 5)
 - ☐ ...must wash his clothes.
 - ☐ ...must bathe himself in water.
 - ☐ ...was unclean until evening.
 - ❖ Anyone who sat on anything the unclean person had sat upon must do the same. (v. 6)
 - ❖ Anyone who touched the unclean person’s body must follow the same steps. (v. 7)
 - ❖ If the person with the unnatural discharge spat on a clean person, the clean person had to apply the same steps. (v. 8)
 - ❖ Any saddle the person with the unnatural discharge used was unclean. (v. 9)
 - ❖ Whoever touched anything under him would be unclean until evening. (v. 10)
 - ❖ Anyone who carried such things must apply the same steps. (v. 10, vv. 5-8)
 - ❖ Anyone the unclean person touched, without having washed his hands, must follow the given steps. (vv. 11, 5, 7)
 - ❖ An earthenware vessel the one with the discharge touched was broken. (v. 12)
 - ❖ Every vessel of wood touched by the unclean person was rinsed in water.
- Further guidelines for one being cleansed of his discharge (vv. 13-15)
 - ❖ The one cleansed of the discharge did not need to see a priest.
 - ❖ There were no external symptoms.



- ❖ The person had to undergo a seven-day waiting period. (v. 13)
- ❖ At the period's end, he had to wash his clothes and bathe his body, in order to become clean.
- ❖ Day 8 (vv. 14-15)
 - ☐ He took two turtledoves, or two pigeons to the priest. (v. 14)
 - ☐ Went before the LORD at the tabernacle entrance.
 - ☐ The priest used the birds for a sin and burnt offerings. (v. 15)
 - ☐ The priest made atonement for the person before the LORD for his discharge.

➤ Normal sexual activity (vv. 16-18)

- ❖ Resulted in temporary uncleanness required in washing. (v. 16)
- ❖ No guilt was attached, and no offering was required (Genesis 2:24).
- ❖ The Bible condemns extramarital and perverted sex (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18).
- ❖ Marriage was plainly honorable. (Hebrews 13:4)
- ❖ A Christian would not speak much of sex. It was intimate, wonderful, & holy when God's laws were followed.
- ❖ If a man had an emission of semen... (v. 16)
 - ☐ ...he bathed his whole body in water.
 - ☐ ...he was unclean until evening.
- ❖ Every garment/skin the semen touched was washed with water, & unclean 'til evening. (v. 17)
- ❖ If a man laid with a women, & emitted semen, both bathed in water, and were unclean 'til evening. (v. 18)

➤ A woman's bodily discharge (vv. 19-30)

- ❖ A woman who was menstruating was unclean for seven days. (v. 19)
- ❖ Whoever touched her during that time was unclean 'til evening.
- ❖ Everything she touched and lay upon during her menstrual cycle was unclean. (v. 20)
- ❖ Whoever touched her bed... (v. 21)
 - ☐ ...had to wash his clothes.
 - ☐ ...bathe himself in water.
 - ☐ ...was unclean until the evening.
- ❖ Whoever touched anything she sat upon had to apply the same steps. (vv. 22-23, 21)
- ❖ If a man lay with a woman during her menstrual cycle... (v. 24)
 - ☐ ...and he was touched by her blood, he was unclean for seven days.
 - ☐ ...every bed he lay upon would be unclean.
- ❖ If a woman has a blood discharge outside of her menstrual cycle... (v. 25)
 - ☐ ...all the days of her discharge she was unclean.



- ❖ The bed she lay upon was the bed of impurity. (v. 26)
 - ❖ Everything she sat upon was unclean, as during her menstrual cycle.
 - ❖ Whoever touched these things was unclean. He had to... (v. 27)
 - ☐ ...wash his clothes.
 - ☐ ...bathe himself in water & be unclean until evening.
 - ❖ If she was cleansed of her discharge, she quarantined seven days, then she was clean. (v. 28)
 - ❖ On day 8, she took two turtledoves, or two pigeons, to the priest at the tabernacle. (v. 29)
 - ❖ The priest used one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. (v. 30)
 - ❖ He made atonement for her before the LORD for the unclean discharge.
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- These commandments kept unclean Jews separate from the tabernacle. If they defiled the tabernacle with their uncleanness, they forfeited their lives. (v. 31)
 - This is the law regarding a male discharge and an emission of semen. (v. 32)
 - The purity process – from an unclean discharge & the offering for it - was the same for both male and female. (v. 33)



Group Questions

- 1) God is concerned about His creation. Read Genesis 1:26a-27; 2:7, 15, 21-23. Describe what these passages reveal. Pull back and take a broad perspective of what these texts show us. Consider creation, life, how we are to live that life, the structures God gives us, etc. There is more here than meets the eye. Discuss everything given.

- 2) One characteristic of God's regulations in this text is the transmission of a contagion from one person to another. The Creator goes to great lengths to teach His people how to protect themselves. On the surface, it could appear God is too intrusive in the daily human life. He provided great detail regarding what a person must do regarding bodily discharges. Describe what you see.

- 3) It is clear in this text that "*unclean*" is not the same as "*sinful*." The Bible does not view the process of human reproduction, with its associated bodily functions, as evil. This is part of God's grand design in His original goodness for His creation. The Creator of these functions has the right to tell His obedient creatures how and when to use them. Explain (Genesis 1:27-28a-b; 2:22-24).

- 4) Talk about one other major takeaway God has given you from this chapter.

