

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: Laws About Leprosy

Chapter 13

19 October 2022



- God spoke to Moses and Aaron. (v. 1)
- The priest's examination of the disease. (vv. 2-28)
 - ❖ The symptoms (v. 2)
 - ☐ Swelling skin.
 - ☐ A bodily discharge from the skin.
 - ☐ A discolored skin spot.
 - ❖ The priest's examination of the person with the skin issue. (vv. 3-8)
 - ☐ Aaron, or his sons, would examine the damaged skin area. (vv. 3-4)
 - If... (v. 3)
 - ...the hair on the diseased area had turned white.
 - ...the disease appeared to be deeper than the skin.
 - It was a case of leprosy.
 - Then, the priest pronounced the person unclean.
 - But... (v. 4)
 - ...the spot was white in the skin area.
 - ...it appeared no deeper than the skin.
 - ...hair had not turned white.
 - Then, the priest isolated the person for seven days.
 - The priest examined the person on the seventh day. (v. 5)
 - If...the disease had not spread in the skin.
 - The priest continued the quarantine for another seven days.
 - Again, the priest examined the person on the seventh day. (vv. 6-8)
 - If...the diseased area faded and did not spread in the skin. (v. 6)
 - Then, the priest pronounced him clean.
 - The person washed his clothes and was clean.
 - But, if the bodily discharge spread on the skin after he saw the priest. (v. 7)
 - The person appeared again to the priest.
 - But, if the priest acknowledged the symptoms had spread... (v. 8)
 - ...he pronounced the person unclean with a leprous disease.



❖ A person with a leprous disease. (vv. 9-17)

- ☐ The person was brought to the priest. (v. 9)
- ☐ If... (vv. 10-17)
 - ...white swelling in the skin. (v. 10)
 - ...hair in the infected area had turned white.
 - ...there was raw flesh in the swelling.
 - The priest pronounced the person unclean and impure. (v. 11)
 - The person was not isolated in quarantine. Rather, he was banished.
 - If the leprosy covered the person's body from head to toe... (vv. 12-17)
 - ... the priest pronounced the person clean of the disease. (v. 13)
 - The skin had all turned white.
 - When raw flesh appeared, the person was unclean - leprosy. (v. 14)
 - After examination, the priest would declare the person with leprosy. (v. 15)
 - If the raw flesh recovered, & turned white, he could go to the priest. (v. 16)
 - When the priest verified the skin turned white, he would become clean. (v. 17)

❖ Boils (vv. 18-23)

- ☐ If the skin developed a boil, then it healed. (v. 18)
- ☐ In the place of the boil, there developed a white swelling, or red spot. (v. 19)
- ☐ One had to see the priest.
- ☐ When the spot was deeper than the skin, & the hair turned white... (v. 20)
- ☐ ...priest pronounced the person unclean – a leprous disease broke out in the boil.
- ☐ Upon examination, there was no white hair, & not deeper than the skin, but faded... (v. 21)
- ☐ ...the priest would isolate the person for seven days.
- ☐ If it spread after seven days, the priest pronounced the person unclean - leprosy. (v. 22)
- ☐ The priest pronounced the person clean, if the area had not spread. (v. 23)

❖ Burns (vv. 24-28)

- ☐ Raw flesh from a burn developed a reddish white, or white, spot. (v. 24)
- ☐ On that spot, the hair turned white, & it appeared deeper than the skin – leprosy. (v. 25)
- ☐ Upon priest's examination, no white hair, & not deeper than the skin...but faded... (v. 26)
- ☐ ...the priest isolated the person for seven days.
- ☐ On the seventh day, if it spread in the skin, the person was unclean – leprosy. (v. 27)
- ☐ If spot remained, did not spread, but faded, priest pronounced clean – a burn scar. (v. 28)

➤ Head or beard disease (vv. 29-37)

- ❖ The priest would examine a disease of the man, or woman's, head, or beard. (vv. 29-30)
- ❖ If deeper than the skin, & hair turned yellow and thin, priest pronounced unclean. (v. 30)
- ❖ If itching disease appeared no deeper than the skin, & there was no black hair... (v. 31)
- ❖ The priest isolated the person for seven days.



- ☐ On the seventh day, the priest would examine the disease. (v. 32)
- ☐ If the disease had not spread, & no yellow hair was in the area...
- ☐ Itch appeared to be no deeper than the skin.
- ☐ Then, the person would shave himself. But the itching area he would not shave. (v. 33)
- ☐ The priest would isolate the person for seven days.
- ☐ On the seventh day, if the itch stayed at skin level and did not spread... (v. 34)
- ☐ ...priest pronounced him clean. He would wash his clothes and be clean.
- ☐ But, after cleansing, the itch spread. (v. 35)
- ☐ The priest would again examine him. (v. 36)
- ☐ If the itch spread in the skin, he would not seek yellow hair, the person would be unclean.
- ☐ If the priest believed the itch was unchanged, & black hair was growing... (v. 37)
- ☐ ...the person was clean. The priest would pronounce him as such.

➤ Skin spots (vv. 38-39)

- ❖ When white spots occurred on the body, the priest would look. (vv. 38-39)
- ❖ If the skin spots were dull white, it was leukoderma.
- ❖ Leukoderma – Partial, or complete loss, or absence of pigmentation marked by white patches of skin.
- ❖ The person was clean.

➤ A bald head (vv. 40-44)

- ❖ A bald man was clean. (v. 40)
- ❖ If a man's hair falls out in his forehead, he is clean. (v. 41)
- ❖ A reddish-white diseased area. (v. 42)
 - ☐ A man developed a spot on his bald head, or forehead.
 - ☐ It was leprosy. He was unclean.
- ❖ The priest would examine this man. (vv. 43-44)
 - ☐ If the diseased swelling was reddish-white, like leprosy... (v. 43)
 - ☐ ...he was an unclean leprous man, with disease on his head. (v. 44)

➤ A leper's responsibilities. (vv. 45-46)

- ❖ He wore torn clothes. (v. 45)
- ❖ He let his hair hang loose.
- ❖ He covered his upper lip & cried out "Unclean, unclean."
- ❖ He remained unclean the duration of the disease. (v. 46)
- ❖ He lived alone, living in a dwelling outside the camp.

➤ Garments (vv. 47-52)



- ❖ There were times when leprosy would compromise a garment. The Hebrew word here focuses on rot, fungus, or mildew. (v. 47)
- ❖ Warp, linen, wool, skin, or anything made of skin. (v. 48)
- ❖ Identification (vv. 49-59)
 - ☐ Greenish, or reddish coloring in the garment, skin, article made of skin. (v. 49)
 - ☐ Mark of leprosy.
 - ☐ The law required the person show this to the priest.
 - ☐ Upon examination, the priest would isolate the article for seven days. (v. 50)
 - ☐ He examined the article on the seventh day. (v. 51)
 - If the disease spread, it was leprosy, rot, fungus, or mildew and it was unclean.
 - ☐ The priest burnt the garment, or article, because it was contaminated with disease. (v. 52)
 - ☐ The disease had not spread. (vv. 53-55)
 - The disease was isolated in one location in the garment, or article. (v. 53)
 - The priest commanded the owners wash the garment. (v. 54)
 - The owner isolated the garment, or article, for seven more days.
 - The priest examined the garment, or article, after the owners washed it. (v. 55)
 - If the diseased area had not changed, and had not spread, it remained unclean.
 - The item was burned with fire and destroyed.
 - ☐ The area infected had faded after washing. (vv. 56-57)
 - The priest tore it out of the article, or garment. (v. 56)
 - If it appeared again, the priest burned it with fire. (v. 57)
 - ☐ The disease was cleansed from the garment, or article after washing. (v. 58)
 - ☐ The owner washed the garment, or article, a second time. It would be clean.
 - ☐ This was God's law regarding leprosy, rot, mold, or mildew found in a garment, or article. (v. 59)



Group Questions

- 1) The Bible is a complex document. It is a book of literature, history, narrative, poetry, wisdom, etc. Return to Genesis, chapters one and two. Read these chapters and list all the sciences you find given there. Take your time. What you find will surprise you.

- 2) This chapter is a treatise on ancient medicine. The symptoms listed are more applicable to communicable diseases characterized by skin rash – measles, smallpox, scarlet fever, etc. No medication was prescribed because in that day nothing was appropriate. The only weapon people had to prevent the spread of disease was quarantine. View this chapter via the lens of Genesis 1:26 & 2:7. Now, what do you see.

- 3) God provides more insight into the weighty responsibility priests had in ancient Israel. His priests provided ministry leadership for His people to Him. Additionally, He charged them with proper medical treatment and sanitary concerns in daily life. Discuss how this impacts your view of an ancient Israelite priest.

- 4) Share with the group one other major takeaway God has given you from this chapter.

