



INTRODUCTION:

NOTE: The sin offering was always presented first – why?

- Because the offerings were presented from God's viewpoint
- When man comes to God he comes as a sinner in need of forgiveness
- The sin question is the first question that needs to be settled with God

Chapter 11: We look at the Jewish dietary laws

- We refer to food that meets these standards as “kosher” foods.
- Kosher doesn't mean, “blessed” by a rabbi
- Kosher comes from the Hebrew root KAF-SHIN-REISH meaning fit, proper or correct
- Kosher simply means that it meets the dietary standards that God has set for food that we are to eat

Q: Why did God institute these dietary laws? For protection

- By instituting the dietary laws, God protected the Israelites from the diseases that ravaged the cultures surrounding them

When the Bubonic Plague killed one of four Europeans, the Jewish community was remarkably immune. Because they followed the sanitary regulations of the Old Testament, not knowing the reason for them but simply being obedient to them, the Jews were protected to a remarkable degree

Leviticus 11:1–2 (NKJV)

11 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘These *are* the animals which you may eat among all the animals that *are* on the earth:

Vs. 3-8 The dietary laws concerning animals

- He says you can eat any animal with cloven hooves and eat grass
- You can't eat animals that don't have cloven hooves and eat grass
- You can't eat camel, rock hyrax (badger), rabbit or pig

Vs. 9-12 The dietary laws concerning seafood

- He says you can eat any fish that has scales and fins



- You can't eat anything that doesn't have scales and fins.
- So... Lobster, shrimp, sea urchin, clams, mussels, oysters... can't eat...

Vs. 13-19 The dietary laws concerning birds

- He says you can't eat eagles, vulture, buzzards, kites (large bird of prey like a hawk),
- Falcons, ravens, ostrich, several varieties of owl, sea gull, hawks, storks
- Heron, the hoopoe (a colorful bird that eats lizards and insects) and the bat

Vs. 20-23 The dietary laws concerning insects

- Basically God says, don't eat any bug that crawls on all fours or has four feet and flies
- However, you can eat any flying insect that has jointed legs above their feet such as locusts, crickets and grasshoppers

Vs. 24-40 The laws concerning what is sanitary and unsanitary

- Dead bodies of animals are unsanitary
- Moles, mice, large lizards and anything they touch are unsanitary for 24 hours and need to be cleaned.
- We owned an iguana and we were told we had to wash our hands because they carried sow manila
- God in His wisdom set up sanitary laws to protect the Jews from disease that could be carried through wood, clothing, skin or sacks.
- Interesting, only two things are called clean – running water and planting seed that is sown

Vs. 41-43 The dietary laws concerning reptiles and insects

- That crawl on its belly, walks on all fours or has many feet
- They are an abomination, which means gross in English.

And Vs. 44-47 gives us the real reasons behind the dietary laws...

Leviticus 11:44–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ For I *am* the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I *am* holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ⁴⁵ For I *am* the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.



⁴⁶ ‘This *is* the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, ⁴⁷ to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.’ ”

Two reasons given

- To demonstrate that God’s people are separate from the world
- To teach discernment between sanitary and unsanitary things
- There are many who look at the letter of the law and say... it doesn’t say it specifically, so it doesn’t apply
- But God wants us to learn discernment so that we could apply His Word to situations that aren’t specifically addressed in scripture
- That is why it’s important to know God’s Word – so that we can discern between what is sanitary and unsanitary / clean and unclean in our lives

Chapter 12 Addresses Childbirth

- After giving birth to a male child, a woman was considered ceremonially unclean – unable to take part in tabernacle worship for seven days
- On the eighth day, the male child was circumcised
- According to science Vitamin K and prothrombin are needed to cause blood coagulation – without it hemorrhaging may occur
- On the eight day, the amount of prothrombin in a male’s life is 100% above normal – it’s the only day this occurs.
- After thirty days, the woman would bring an offering to the Lord

Leviticus 12:5 (NKJV)

⁵ ‘But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her customary impurity, and she shall continue in the blood of *her* purification sixty-six days.

If a mom gave birth to a boy she was unclean for 41 days

- If she gave birth to a girl she was unclean for 80 days
- Why the difference?
- Because through circumcision (the shedding of blood), the sin of the baby boy was addressed
- But the sin of a baby girl could not be addressed in that way so the time was twice as long



Q: Why would the birth of a child be considered unclean?

- Because as difficult as beautiful and pure as a baby is, they are still born into a world that is fallen, corrupt, sinful
- David said in Psalm 51:5 – in sin I was conceived
- Proverbs 22:15 says – foolishness is bound in the heart of a child
- We are born with a sin nature
- I don't have to teach my kids how to lie – they are born with that
- I have to teach them how to tell the truth
- At the end of the time of uncleanness, the woman was to bring a lamb

Leviticus 12:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ 'When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁷ Then he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This *is* the law for her who has borne a male or a female.

- How prophetic that one day, Mary would bring a Lamb into the world that would make atonement for the sins of all.

Chapter 13 we see the law concerning Leprosy

- Leprosy is a disease caused by bacteria that results in skin lesions that are described in Leviticus...
- In the Bible, it's a type of sin and the destructive nature of sin
- It's a fatal disease with no known cure – only God can remove it

Leviticus 13:1–3 (NKJV)

13 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: ² "When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body *like* a leprous sore, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. ³ The priest shall examine the sore on the skin of the body; and if the hair on the sore has turned white, and the sore appears *to be* deeper than the skin of his body, it *is* a leprous sore. Then the priest shall examine him, and pronounce him unclean.



- Leprosy attacks the skin, nerves, limb and eyes and it's believed that it is transmitted from person to person in respiratory droplets
- Vs. 1-46 God instructs the priests on how to diagnose and treat the person who has leprosy
- If they were afflicted with Leprosy they were to be isolated and placed outside of the camp to keep from infecting the rest of the people

NOTE: For those who are follicly challenged, there is a verse that applies to you...

Leviticus 13:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ "As for the man whose hair has fallen from his head, he *is* bald, *but* he *is* clean.

Vs. 47-59 God instructs the priests on how to detect the presence of Leprosy in clothing

- Because Leprosy is bacterial, it could be transferred to cloth and leather
- Here we see the way to deal with clothing that is infested with a bacteria is to burn it with fire

Chapter 14 deals with how to reintegrate someone who was cleansed of Leprosy into the community

Leviticus 14:1-3 (NKJV)

14 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest. ³ And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine *him*; and indeed, *if* the leprosy is healed in the leper,

Now, I want you to notice something... on the day of the lepers cleansing – it says the leper is brought to the priest

- But in reality the priest goes outside the camp to examine the leper to see if God healed them
- So it is also the mission of the church – to go outside the camp to where the unlovely are...
- To examine them to see if God is doing a work in their hearts



Vs. 1-9 we see God giving instructions to the leper on what precautions to take when coming back into the community

- When people are born again, they aren't ready to be integrated into the community of faith
- They need to be cleansed, healed and taught – what is appropriate, what is not appropriate – it's a process

Vs. 10-32 The priests offers three sacrifices

- A trespass offering, a sin offering and a burnt offering
- The person is dedicated to the Lord... blood applied to the right ear, thumb and toe
- Signifying that they are completely cleansed from leprosy
- Representing the new believer who is completely cleansed of sin

Vs. 33-53 God gives instructions on cleansing homes of Leprosy

- There are some who suggest that this had to do with mold and fungus in a house...
- We had a leak and it was amazing how the mold removal guys created an airtight seal, removed the drywall, sprayed with antibacterial chemicals, replaced drywall and repainted... they were extremely careful
- In a sense, the same thing is happening here... this cleansing happened in three stages
- First the house was emptied and shut for seven days
- If Leprosy was present then the house was renovated – the infected plaster and rock was removed, replaced and repainted
- If Leprosy was still present then the house was demolished

Leviticus 14:54–57 (NKJV)

⁵⁴ “This *is* the law for any leprous sore and scale, ⁵⁵ for the leprosy of a garment and of a house, ⁵⁶ for a swelling and a scab and a bright spot, ⁵⁷ to teach when *it is* unclean and when *it is* clean. This *is* the law of leprosy.”

Chapter 15 is Roxie's favorite chapter concerning bodily discharges

Leviticus 15:1–3 (NKJV)

15 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge *is* unclean. ³ And this shall be his uncleanness in



regard to his discharge—whether his body runs with his discharge, or his body is stopped up by his discharge, it *is* his uncleanness.

- Although there is a lot of debate concerning the purpose of this chapter, most believe it is referring to sexually transmitted diseases
- Vs. 1-12 God describes the impact of this chronic discharge of disease
- It affects everything it touches
- In dealing with this disease, the key to treatment is found in vs. 13

Leviticus 15:13 (NKJV)

¹³ ‘And when he who has a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in running water; then he shall be clean.

Keep in mind that this predates medical knowledge by thousands of years

- It wasn't until the 19th century that doctors understood the importance of cleanliness
- Prior to that time, doctors wore blood on their clothes and hands as a sign of success – it meant they were busy and successful
- In the 1800's one particular doctor made a correlation between the number of autopsies performed and the number of patients who died from infectious disease by the hands of these same doctors
- He came to the revolutionary conclusion that doctors were spreading the disease and that doctors should wash after every operation.
- I think of the cleansing effect of the water of God's Word

Jesus said...

John 15:3 (NKJV)

³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

David writes...

Psalms 119:9 (NKJV)

⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.



Vs. 14-15 speaks of the need for a sacrificial offering implying that sin is the cause of this chronic emission

Vs. 16-18 speaks of normal sexual activity

- There was no guilt attached and therefore no offering was required

Vs. 19-24 speaks of a woman's normal cycle

- Because it's a discharge that involves blood, everything it touches is unclean
- But no guilt is attached and no offering required because it's part of normal life.

Vs. 25-27 speaks of a woman who has a long term disease

- I think of the woman who had the issue of blood for 12 years

Vs. 28-30 does require a sacrifice implying that the cause of this chronic discharge is due to sin

Leviticus 15:31 (NKJV)

³¹ 'Thus you shall separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness when they defile My tabernacle that *is* among them.

- We see God's intent behind these laws – to protect His people from death

Now we come to a break in the Book of Leviticus

- Chapters 1-15 deal with Positional Holiness
- Chapters 17-27 deal with Practical Holiness
- In the middle is Leviticus 16 – the Day of Atonement
- We covered the Day of Atonement in depth on Sunday

Leviticus 16:1–2 (NKJV)

16 Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered *profane fire* before the LORD, and died; ² and the LORD said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at *just* any time into the



Holy *Place* inside the veil, before the mercy seat which *is* on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

- This may give us some insight on why Nadab and Abihu died... because they took fire from the wrong place
- Vs. 11 tells us that Aaron took the fire from the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place... we don't know where they took their fire from
- Vs. 3-14 God gives Aaron detailed instructions on how he was to perform the sin offering for himself and his family
- Vs. 15-19 God gives Aaron detailed instruction on how he was to perform the sin offering for the people
- Vs. 20-28 God gives Aaron instructions concerning the scapegoat
- Vs. 29-33 God institutes the Day of Atonement as an everlasting statute
- In other words, they are to commemorate the Day of Atonement for all eternity

Leviticus 16:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year." And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

- They did as the Lord commanded Moses and continued to celebrate the Day of Atonement until Jesus would fulfill the everlasting statute

As Paul writes...

Hebrews 10:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- Today the everlasting Covenant has been fulfilled once and for all – one sacrifice for all eternity.

HOMEWORK: LEVITICUS 17-22

Next time we will look specifically at how we are to practically live as holy unto the Lord.