

deeper than the skin of his flesh

13:1 – 3 Leviticus

~ Leprosy is a spiritual symbol of sin in the Word of God. Isaiah said, "*... the whole head is sick and the whole heart fainteth; from the soul of the foot unto the crown of the head we are sick and there is no soundness in it; only wounds, bruises and putrefying sores of iniquity.*" This is our condition before we are born again, friends. AFTER we are born again, Christ heals us from sin and cleanses us CONTINUALLY from all sins IF - IF - IF we confess our sins daily. That's a pretty big IF for most self-professed Christians who believe erroneously they have reached sinless perfection. If Christ does not wash us clean in His Word over and over and over again every single day, we will stink, spiritually speaking, and become filthy. Ultimately, we will develop spiritual leprosy.

Our Spiritual Safari comes now to yet another highly unusual section of the Word of God. The Book of Leviticus is unusual from any perspective you view it, but this chapter brings a particularly strange commandment, indeed. Leviticus has resounding spiritual messages for us in this hour in which we live. Our last report on the topic of motherhood was as contrary to man's thinking as we can possibly get. God said His thoughts are not our thoughts; and we move from motherhood directly to the issue of leprosy. You will not find anything more practical and relative to our lives today except for the section of Scripture we just left! We can definitely label this entire book: HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD! That MUST translate into holiness in our daily life if we are sincere Christians. God is concerned with His children's conduct, and every seemingly mundane aspect in the life of a believer.

We have seen myriad great truths thus far in Leviticus; from the offerings to the strange fire to diet to motherhood and now to sickness and disease in this and the next two chapters. Here, we will examine the law of how to control leprosy within the camp, so it doesn't spread throughout. Leprosy is

a fitting figure and true type of the manifestation and representation of sin in the heart of man! The filthiness and repulsiveness of sin is revealed to us in type by the different accounts we have of this disease. This area of study is what reveals to us the exceeding sinfulness of sin! In this report, we see sin in action! If you have read these safari reports from the beginning of our Levitical leg you will agree that we have emphasized sin, ad nauseam. If sin is a reality to you now, then you have successfully comprehended God's message for you in this book. If you do not see the awfulness of your sin, then you have completely missed the point. Of course, I doubt those people are still reading anyways. This is MORAL leprosy we're talking about now. Remember in Matthew, Jesus said, "out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts, murders, thefts, false witness, fornication, blasphemy; these are the things which defile a man!" Well, these just happen to be the things that come out of the heart of man today! As we have said, this is also a book about the worship of a Holy God! This long section is all about issues of infirmity in our flesh. There's a whole lot of it to deal with.

Man is hopeless and dead in his trespasses and sins; and that portrait is accurately painted for us in Scripture. The diseased man traveling down the dusty oriental highway crying "... unclean, unclean" was a reprehensible moral reminder to the nation Israel that they, too, were sinners and were completely without help apart from God! Man is a moral leper who needs supernatural cleansing and, friends, if you doubt that, then you doubt the Word of God! Those who think they are going to be saved by works do not believe they need Christ as their Savior. If you went to Heaven as you are then it wouldn't be Heaven; you would be exactly what you are right now – a moral leper! You would be seated OUTSIDE the pearly gates crying out, "... unclean, unclean!" An angel wouldn't even be able to touch you with a twenty-foot pole! You will NEVER get into the presence of the Father without Christ washing you FIRST, my beloved! This idea that we have some sort of claim on God is asinine. God owes you and me nothing! God could blot out the sunlight from this globe right now and that would be the end of us – and it would just be the beginning of righteousness with God! When I look out at this vast existence, I don't think God would even miss us if He did wipe us out! He would be just to do that, but it wouldn't be His love He was demonstrating. Thank God this book we are studying also communicates to us that God loves us!

To gain a proper perspective on how sin and leprosy compare, let's flip to the thirty- eighth Psalm, where we read, "... there is no soundness in my flesh because of Thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones. Because of my sins my wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness; my loins are filled with a loathsome disease and there is no soundness in my flesh. I will declare my iniquities and I will be sorrowful for all my sins!" That is the picture of us today, safari readers. That's what we look like to God. Go ahead and ask God in prayer to reveal understanding to you from that chapter in Psalm - and then go read it slowly – if you dare! I've already given Isaiah's point of view – God cannot make this any clearer. There is NO soundness in you!

Surely Christ did carry our sorrows and bear our grief; and we consider Him stricken. Christ was smitten of God and afflicted and wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquity. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed - of sins....healed of SINS – not something else! We will all receive a glorified body, but we don't have that today. Peter said, "... who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." It's clear we're talking about sins. The old leprosy – is still the same – SIN! Christ bore our sins and not our diphtheria or plague. Physical disease is the manifestation of sins; disease germs were brought into this world by sins. Where do disease germs come from? Most doctors concur that most disease comes from filthiness, in general. When you indulge in sex and you neglect your hygiene and everything else there is a good chance you'll come down with a disease. It's a pretty simple understanding, really – and it's all a picture of sin!

There are two important considerations to account for as we consider this chapter. First, the Bible does not support the generally accepted viewpoint that leprosy was incurable in that day. In chapter fourteen we find the law for a leper in the day of his cleansing. These ancient people had a cure available to them for leprosy, according to the Bible! Naaman, the Syrian captain of the guard, was told by Elisha to go dip in the Jordan River. The water back in Syria was a hundred times cleaner! I happen to agree with

Naaman in that I wouldn't want to get in that nasty river myself. Naaman didn't want to dip in it, and he didn't have to, but it was the only way his leprosy was going to be cleansed.

Some Biblical scholars believe it was leprosy that Job suffered from. They didn't have what we would call a scientific diagnosis; and I think the prognosis was often incorrect anyways. I am sure in many cases the person just naturally overcame the disease and became well again. I'm also sure a lot of every day activity was called supernatural in Job's day. The medicines of early times certainly affected a cure. No credible scientist will refute that. We know we have oils that cure certain types of leprosy today that would have been available to ancient mankind.

Instructions for the priest are also given concerning how to properly diagnose a case of leprosy. Then, measures are implemented that can be taken to prevent its spreading throughout the camp. Next, we have a ritual that was to be gone through after the cleansing was complete. I say that to say what we have here is NOT a cure – that is a huge doctrinal mistake. Leprosy was considered a highly contagious and dreadful disease that was fatal in most instances. What's important is that no cure whatsoever is presented here.

Furthermore, this chapter is not a scientific treatise on the detection or prevention of leprosy. The prognosis, more or less, is presented - but no attempt is made to sustain a medical diagnosis of the disease. The only analysis offered is the practical information adjusted to the knowledge of that day. Naturally, many Christian physicians have felt compelled to question whether the modern-day disease of leprosy, as we know it, is the same disease of leprosy in the Bible. You would be amazed at how much written information is available on this subject. The disease described in this chapter and the next is called Mycobacterium lepromatosis and it is a death dealing disease, you may be sure. This includes ALL skin diseases, running issues, cancers, tumors, incurable infections, and every social disease known to man. We're going to have this demonstrated exhaustively in the fifteenth chapter. In this chapter, only the initial stages are described because, as soon as the person is declared stricken, he is ejected from the camp and from society....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, saying,

2 When a man shall have in the skin of his flesh a rising, a scab, or bright spot, and it be in the skin of his flesh like the plague of leprosy; then he shall be brought unto Aaron the priest, or unto one of his sons the priests:

~ Compared to modern diagnostic techniques this Book of Leviticus is a little crude. The procedure was, naturally, adept to the knowledge of the day we are studying. The diagnosis is NOT made to render treatment, but rather, it is a religious ritual – that’s all! I cannot stress this emphatically enough. Until you understand what we are looking at, no valid criticism of any Biblical knowledge, teaching or preaching can possibly be offered by you. A skilled doctor can look at a patient and diagnose cancer; but it’s never official, of course, until the tests are executed in a scientific way which governs how to proceed with an operation. I think they may have known more in that day than we know in ours.

We place the emphasis on spiritual lessons as opposed to physical catharsis in our Spiritual Safari. Three symptoms are identified now: the bright spot, the rising and the scab. The person that had these symptoms was not necessarily a leper, though. The first thing that was to be done was to bring the person to a priest. Likewise, today, we are to bring every problem, small and great, to our Holy High Priest and Great Physician the moment it appears.

I believe that a child of God ought to come to the Father immediately when he sins and confess it in prayer. Ask our High Priest if this thing you have contracted will now break out into a full-blown leprosy or not. Let’s turn our case over to the Lord Jesus Christ, friends. When we are physically sick, we should do the same. I get some very ugly letters about all of this and it is the point of difficult contentions between many believers. I have a lot of sins, but the ones they usually accuse me of just do not happen to be the ones I have! I take all of this to the Lord Jesus in prayer. How about you? How do you handle gossip about you that isn’t true? I take it to God, friends. I go to God when I am sick, when I sin and when I am sinned against. I am not one to say I follow God and then do whatever I want to

do. When you say things in error about God's servant, you blaspheme God, and you humiliate yourself. You are sinning against God with a leprous mouth! Let's all get cleansed from our sins and not get back in the pigpen, shall we? ~

3 And the priest shall look on the plague in the skin of the flesh: and when the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight be deeper than the skin of his flesh, it is a plague of leprosy: and the priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean.

~ Alright, we aren't making rash judgments in this report as the priests handle this professionally and carefully over a reasonable period of time. If a man went in and had some symptoms the priests would put him away - and sometimes, the symptoms would disappear – but sometimes that hair would turn white. That's when they knew the leprosy was beneath the skin. This man was in trouble. God has made a thorough spiritual examination of us; and guess what the prognosis is? Well, for one, our throat is an open sepulchre. Talk about spiritual bad breath! Many Christians have it. With their tongues they use deceit, says Jesus. Well, if you go to the Great Physician He is going to say, "open your mouth and stick out your tongue." Many of us will certainly regret that moment!

The easiest thing in the world to do today is to tell a lie! For some completely demented people, they enjoy watching their sadistic lies hurt people. It's too bad there's no prison for them. Many of them need to be there. David said, "... all men are liars." Well, that means all women, also. I have had a long time to think that over - and I agree with David. The poison of asps is under the lips of many people and their mouth is full of bitterness and cursing. Their feet are swift to shed innocent blood and trample in destruction leaving misery in their wake. When the Word of God says "all have sinned" that means all of us are unclean in His sight and that we are spiritual lepers. Well, God isn't running a leper colony in Heaven, kids – you can just write that down. You will have to be healed before you get there - or you won't be going ~
