

# the plague of leprosy is in a man

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13:3 – 59 Leviticus

~ In our first Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, James informed us, " ...when lust is conceived it brings forth sin; when sin is complete it brings forth death!" Do not err, my beloved safari travelers; we're going to examine a whole bunch of Scripture in connection with sin in the next few weeks. We're going to get so mired in leprosy and what the Bible teaches about sin that we may begin to think we have caught a disease; and that will be our first step towards being healthy people and properly fit servants of God. Sin has definite consequences, and this report is simply going to seemingly get stuck in them! Leprosy is a picture and type for sin in the Word of God. This is represented in many ways – many forms of the disease. This chapter presents three different examples of the ways in which leprosy manifests itself; and we'll compare a spiritual application of each....

***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.***

~ The Scofield Study Bible lists three ways in which leprosy relates to sin. We'll consider those; and we're going to tack on a few more. Scofield mentions first that it is in the blood. Second, that it is manifest in loathsome ways; and just look at the sad stories in our prisons and homeless shelters today and you will see that's true. Sin is in the blood; we inherit it, and we are sinners by nature. Third, leprosy is incurable by human means. The third relation Scofield mentions wasn't accurate then, and it's not accurate today. However, it does reveal a horrible disease; and sin is a horrible affliction. Dr. Kellogg wrote, "... leprosy, amongst all diseases, has been selected by the Holy Spirit to stand as the supreme type of sin as seen by God."

Now we're going to add to our study list. Sin begins, just as leprosy does, in a very subtle and seemingly insignificant way but, ultimately, leprosy, like sin, can deal a death blow to the physical and spiritual life of a man. That growth slowly becomes frightful and dreadful. Leprosy is generally segregated within hospitals and, historically, into colonies. If you have ever seen the worst cases of leprosy, then you know how repulsive it can actually be. I quote a missionary from a LONG time ago, *".... as I was approaching Jerusalem I was startled by the apparition of a crowd of beggars. Sans eyes, nose or ears; without hair and horribly dreadful creatures. Handless arms upheld and ungodly sounds gurgling through double cleft throats with no palettes – in a word: horrified!"*

Sin is so innocent in a little child but, one day, it breaks out in full force! It gets onto a college campus or in the workforce - and then into the world to become of the world and, friends, I'll be honest - because I always am honest with you: I find it a wonder that anyone is ever saved! I honestly and truly mean that. Put a sinner in the world and it doesn't take long for the world to produce one fantastic problem! Lenin, Stalin and Hitler were all little babies at one point, of course. They all started off the same. Friends, if that little Hitler or Jezebel growing up in your home doesn't experience some discipline and come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through you then you are going to have a holy terror on your hands before it's all said and done. You're also going to have a holy terror on your hands at the judgment. That's what kids are today – terrors.

Alright, I have one final comparison to make of sin to leprosy; just in case that wasn't enough for you. It starts small, but its progression is certain. That little bump under the skin becomes a flesh-eating cancer. A minor problem advances rapidly to crisis and tragedy. Dr. Thompson says, *".... it advances by definite and defining degrees in differing areas of the body."* Hair falls out and fingernails become loose and parts start dropping off. Joints shrink up and seize and the gums swell in pain. Teeth disappear and the eyes grow dark as the tongue and taste eventually waste away. Then, the wretched patient becomes the victim and sinks into the ground to disappear! THAT – my friends, is what God says sin is! Ezekiel said that God said, *".... behold all souls are mine; and the soul that sinneth, it shall die!"* How about it friends, do you still believe the Bible?

Leprosy is a living death! Like leprosy, sin destroys the whole and entire man, inside and out. The effect of sin is corrosive to both flesh and soul. The psychological state of a man cut off from his family and made to humiliate himself by declaring his uncleanness is overwhelming! Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth; that shall he also reap! He that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but to him that soweth to the spirit shall reap life everlasting. Man does not become totally debauched overnight; the hardening of the heart doesn't happen like a heart attack. Sin is slow process. Leprosy took time to kill; but it did kill. Today, we have living dead zombies amongst us all over the place. It's no wonder they're so popular in movies from Hollywood. Paul says God quickened us that were dead in trespasses and sins. The final, desperate, inescapable end of sin and leprosy is death!

Sin produces melancholy and dissatisfaction with life. Those two societal maladies are rampant in this contemporary society. Have you ever watched the crowds in any place that is supposed to be happy - like Hollywood, New York or Disneyland? Those people are NOT happy, my friends. Their smile is a forced effort. They may become semi-sociable when they have a few cocktails; but, any other time, it's best to steer clear of them. Most people are betting their lives - and they won't win. Everyone loses in the game of life without the Lord Jesus Christ. If you look around the casino or the strip bar at the people, they all look like they are attending their mother-in-law's funeral. They look as miserable as they can possibly be with nowhere else to go! When they do reach some place, they find they have no feelings left. Some are absolutely numb inside; because they have given themselves over to lasciviousness and work all uncleanness with greediness. Sin is an awful thing, and it cannot be stressed enough at this point in our Bible study.

The seventh thing is that leprosy is thought to be hereditary. Whether or not that's accurate I do not challenge - nor proclaim any medical knowledge of - but I don't have any questions, either. Sin is hereditary, friends - my Bible says that. The moment education took the position that moral man is capable of improvement was the moment the declination of this age began. Traditional Christianity assumes the position that natural man is corrupt - absolutely bad - whereas traditional educational methods assume that an

outside human instrument may be beneficial in assisting and reforming a moral improvement in an individual. Traditional Christianity assumes the only outside agent that can transform anyone is the Lord Jesus Christ; and modern education takes the stance that they can do without Him. Even so, the Christian does not improve his own moral nature, but it is exchanged for a new one! That is a tremendous statement.

Finally, we have the eighth correlation, and this is REALLY the last one. Leprosy shut the man out from society as sin shuts a man out from God. It seemed cruel to shut a man out and just lock him out in the wilderness. It's downright frightening that the man was cut off from the sanctuary. What we have to remember is that God is Holy, friends. God is the author of righteousness and cleanliness. Leprosy is an unclean disease, as we have already seen, and it is a very fitting symbol of sin which separates us from God. So, we have spent a lot of time here because there is a great spiritual message for us. Not much is said about sin anymore in the church; and our problem just happens to be a sin problem....

***4 If the bright spot be white in the skin of his flesh, and in sight be not deeper than the skin, and the hair thereof be not turned white; then the priest shall shut up him that hath the plague seven days:***

~ God is slow to anger, and He never rushes to judgment in relationship to us. Every opportunity is provided for the sinner to turn to Christ in this life. God is always patient, merciful, and gracious. The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in truth; faithful and just, forgiving iniquity, transgressions and sin! But God does not clear the guilty without the penalty being paid. The iniquities may be visited upon the children for many generations, in some cases, we are told. That isn't found in the New Testament – we saw that in Exodus. God is not slack concerning any of His promises. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. The priest here with this leper is very patient and gentle. The man was shut up for seven days; and the Lord has the world shut up to the cross of redemption today. Christ is the only way out.

That is certainly the reason I doubt that God will let man get too far out in the distant reaches of the universe. It's laughable to me that Mars is

regarded as so far away. When the astronauts return from space, they quarantine to see if they brought back diseases. My question is: did we leave any diseases up there? No, friends – God hasn't let us go very far at all - not physically nor intellectually - and we're all in a quarantine of unbelief today. God has concluded all in unbelief and sin that He might have mercy upon all.

We need to be very careful in making hasty judgment of each other. It's too easy to do and we usually get it wrong; and that works both ways! It's a very serious matter to make a false charge against another person, particularly a believer. Remember, Paul said, "*... against an elder receive not an accusation except it be with two or three witnesses.*" My experience is: three witnesses are better! My experience is also that three witnesses never happens. We better watch our gossip and backbiting.

Now, if the plague in the skin is not getting worse or spreading but, rather, begins improving, then it obviously was not leprosy, and the man would be pronounced clean. It would have certainly been music to your ears to hear those words from the priest! Remember, the Lord Jesus said to the leper, "*be thou clean!*" Christ can say to the spiritual leper today, "*your sins are forgiven you; go, and sin no more!*" That's the reason Jesus healed down here. Physical healing in His day was a demonstration that He has the power to heal sins. The scribes asked, "*... who can forgive sins except for God?*" Well, Jesus decided to make that man walk. After that, they all knew that the One Who made the man to walk was also able to forgive the man of his sins....

***5 And the priest shall look on him the seventh day: and, behold, if the plague in his sight be at a stay, and the plague spread not in the skin; then the priest shall shut him up seven days more:***

***6 And the priest shall look on him again the seventh day: and, behold, if the plague be somewhat dark, and the plague spread not in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean: it is but a scab: and he shall wash his clothes, and be clean.***

**7 But if the scab spread much abroad in the skin, after that he hath been seen of the priest for his cleansing, he shall be seen of the priest again:**

**8 And if the priest see that, behold, the scab spreadeth in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean : it is a leprosy.**

**9 When the plague of leprosy is in a man, then he shall be brought unto the priest;**

**10 And the priest shall see him: and, behold, if the rising be white in the skin, and it have turned the hair white, and there be quick raw flesh in the rising;**

**11 It is an old leprosy in the skin of his flesh, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean , and shall not shut him up: for he is unclean.**

**12 And if a leprosy break out abroad in the skin, and the leprosy cover all the skin of him that hath the plague from his head even to his foot, wheresoever the priest looketh;**

**13 Then the priest shall consider: and, behold, if the leprosy have covered all his flesh, he shall pronounce him clean that hath the plague: it is all turned white: he is clean.**

**14 But when raw flesh appeareth in him, he shall be unclean.**

**15 And the priest shall see the raw flesh, and pronounce him to be unclean: for the raw flesh is unclean: it is a leprosy.**

**16 Or if the raw flesh turn again, and be changed unto white, he shall come unto the priest;**

**17 And the priest shall see him: and, behold, if the plague be turned into white; then the priest shall pronounce him clean that hath the plague: he is clean.**

**18 The flesh also, in which, even in the skin thereof, was a boil, and is healed,**

**19 And in the place of the boil there be a white rising, or a bright spot, white, and somewhat reddish, and it be shewed to the priest;**

**20 And if, when the priest seeth it, behold, it be in sight lower than the skin, and the hair thereof be turned white; the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a plague of leprosy broken out of the boil.**

**21 But if the priest look on it, and, behold, there be no white hairs therein, and if it be not lower than the skin, but be somewhat dark; then the priest shall shut him up seven days:**

**22 And if it spread much abroad in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a plague.**

**23 But if the bright spot stay in his place, and spread not, it is a burning boil; and the priest shall pronounce him clean.**

**24 Or if there be any flesh, in the skin whereof there is a hot burning, and the quick flesh that burneth have a white bright spot, somewhat reddish, or white;**

**25 Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, if the hair in the bright spot be turned white, and it be in sight deeper than the skin; it is a leprosy broken out of the burning: wherefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is the plague of leprosy.**

**26 But if the priest look on it, and, behold, there be no white hair in the bright spot, and it be no lower than the other skin, but be somewhat dark; then the priest shall shut him up seven days:**

**27 And the priest shall look upon him the seventh day: and if it be spread much abroad in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is the plague of leprosy.**

***28 And if the bright spot stay in his place, and spread not in the skin, but it be somewhat dark; it is a rising of the burning, and the priest shall pronounce him clean: for it is an inflammation of the burning.***

***29 If a man or woman have a plague upon the head or the beard;***

***30 Then the priest shall see the plague: and, behold, if it be in sight deeper than the skin; and there be in it a yellow thin hair; then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a dry scall, even a leprosy upon the head or beard.***

***31 And if the priest look on the plague of the scall, and, behold, it be not in sight deeper than the skin, and that there is no black hair in it; then the priest shall shut up him that hath the plague of the scall seven days:***

***32 And in the seventh day the priest shall look on the plague: and, behold, if the scall spread not, and there be in it no yellow hair, and the scall be not in sight deeper than the skin;***

***33 He shall be shaven, but the scall shall he not shave; and the priest shall shut up him that hath the scall seven days more:***

***34 And in the seventh day the priest shall look on the scall: and, behold, if the scall be not spread in the skin, nor be in sight deeper than the skin; then the priest shall pronounce him clean: and he shall wash his clothes, and be clean.***

***35 But if the scall spread much in the skin after his cleansing;***

***36 Then the priest shall look on him: and, behold, if the scall be spread in the skin, the priest shall not seek for yellow hair; he is unclean.***

***37 But if the scall be in his sight at a stay, and that there is black hair grown up therein; the scall is healed, he is clean: and the priest shall pronounce him clean.***



***38 If a man also or a woman have in the skin of their flesh bright spots, even white bright spots;***

***39 Then the priest shall look: and, behold, if the bright spots in the skin of their flesh be darkish white; it is a freckled spot that groweth in the skin; he is clean.***

***40 And the man whose hair is fallen off his head, he is bald; yet is he clean.***

***41 And he that hath his hair fallen off from the part of his head toward his face, he is forehead bald: yet is he clean.***

***42 And if there be in the bald head, or bald forehead, a white reddish sore; it is a leprosy sprung up in his bald head, or his bald forehead.***

***43 Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, if the rising of the sore be white reddish in his bald head, or in his bald forehead, as the leprosy appeareth in the skin of the flesh;***

***44 He is a leprous man, he is unclean: the priest shall pronounce him utterly unclean; his plague is in his head.***

***45 And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean.***

***46 All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.***

***47 The garment also that the plague of leprosy is in, whether it be a woollen garment, or a linen garment;***

***48 Whether it be in the warp, or woof; of linen, or of woollen; whether in a skin, or in any thing made of skin;***

***49 And if the plague be greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; it is a plague of leprosy, and shall be shewed unto the priest:***

***50 And the priest shall look upon the plague, and shut up it that hath the plague seven days:***

***51 And he shall look on the plague on the seventh day: if the plague be spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in a skin, or in any work that is made of skin; the plague is a fretting leprosy; it is unclean.***

***52 He shall therefore burn that garment, whether warp or woof, in woollen or in linen, or any thing of skin, wherein the plague is: for it is a fretting leprosy; it shall be burnt in the fire.***

***53 And if the priest shall look, and, behold, the plague be not spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin;***

***54 Then the priest shall command that they wash the thing wherein the plague is, and he shall shut it up seven days more:***

***55 And the priest shall look on the plague, after that it is washed: and, behold, if the plague have not changed his colour, and the plague be not spread; it is unclean; thou shalt burn it in the fire; it is fret inward, whether it be bare within or without.***

***56 And if the priest look, and, behold, the plague be somewhat dark after the washing of it; then he shall rend it out of the garment, or out of the skin, or out of the warp, or out of the woof:***

***57 And if it appear still in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; it is a spreading plague: thou shalt burn that wherein the plague is with fire.***

***58 And the garment, either warp, or woof, or whatsoever thing of skin it be, which thou shalt wash, if the plague be departed from them, then it shall be washed the second time, and shall be clean.***

***59 This is the law of the plague of leprosy in a garment of woollen or linen, either in the warp, or woof, or any thing of skins, to pronounce it clean, or to pronounce it unclean.***

~ Notice that up to three inspections were made of the leper. God gives every man several chances in this life. There are people who made a commitment and make a profession to God - but have turned away from it. They are some of the most miserable people you'll ever meet. God gives second chances, friends; but you simply must get busy for the cause of Christ. I think God gives men a thousand chances, many times.

A diagnosis of old cases of leprosy started at verse nine. I suggest you read the whole section we are examining several times very carefully – so it begins to sink in. Notice the plague of leprosy laid dormant in some cases, or it was arrested by some method, although not healed. I think we could call this chronic leprosy. There's no need to put this man in for observation because this one is definitely a leper. Today, this is the class we designate as the hardened sinner. They are the spiritual mafia, and they are very real! These people are so obviously sinners that even their family and friends will tell them to their faces. Most of them will laugh and agree and resign themselves to go to hell. Many actually brag about being destined for eternal damnation. Deep down they want to escape the slavery of whatever, but they are only interested in themselves receiving a benefit; they could not care less about the Lord Jesus or studying their Bibles. The same holds true for a drug addict. Only the supernatural remedial prescription of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ can cure this spiritual disease.

Let's not leave out the polished, slick and sophisticated church member. This man is NOT saved, either - and denies he has leprosy. This man deeply resents being told he is a sinner. The hardened lost sinner will be easier to reach than this church member. People who deny they have the plague are the most abominable people you will ever meet. We should note, however,

that the hair may not turn white, so no sinner is hopeless. Isaiah asked, "... *why should you be stricken any more?*" The whole head is sick and the whole heart fainteth - but it isn't necessary to remain in that condition. That's exactly what God says here, and God also says, "*come, let us reason together; though your sins be as scarlet I shall wash them white as snow.*" That's wonderful to me.

In the case of the boil, the white hair meant some deep-seated trouble was growing. The time was taken by the priests to isolate the disease and watch it to see if it would grow. There is always a danger of our old sin reappearing, spreading, and becoming malignant! Even so, a careful examination should be made, and we must not condemn people too soon. Paul said he was crucified with Christ and that Christ was living through him. The life we live in the flesh we are to live by the faith in the Son of God Who lovingly gave Himself for us! There are myriad passages connected with this.

The localized plague is represented in the beard. Leprosy may break out in the most unlikely place, and it may be hidden. The problem is, sin insinuates itself, always. When it is hidden in the body of the church in prominent places it infects the effectiveness of the entire body of the congregation as it becomes worse and worse. It may be that it is NOT leprosy - and time was given to think that over and to observe it and examine it more carefully. We need to really understand all of these things in the Bible, friends.

We even have instructions for the garments and the first thing that is to happen is the clothes are to be rent. Tearing the garments speaks to the fact that the leper was considered a dead man! The sinner spreads his disease wherever he goes because he is highly contagious and infects others along his way. We all have the right to live our lives as we see fit and pleasing; but you have no right taking others to hell with you because of your apostate false teaching. Many, many people do just that, my beloved! The lesson is that the leper defiles everything and everyone that is around him. Sin can easily be spread today, and it IS being spread around – right now ~

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