

in a house in the land of your possessions

chapter fourteen Leviticus

~ Leviticus is so dry and difficult that most people skip it altogether in their Bible study. Most Christians cannot make application of this book because they really don't know anything about the other books of the Word of God. If you do not read the specified text of Scripture before this report, and pray for wisdom judgment and discernment, then I promise you that you will glean very, very little knowledge of the Word of God from these reports – or any examination of these documents. Read the Scripture, pray, and then read this report and it will be very meaningful and understandable to you, I promise. If you're REALLY serious about Bible study, then read the Scripture again afterward, too. This is another extremely long report before us. I have already stated previously how I feel totally inadequate to present this teaching to you; and as I edit these reports, I almost feel lost in hopeless abandonment. This is an excruciatingly long and difficult leg of our Spiritual Safari. I am attempting to bring SOME life to it for you, but I make no promises. If the Holy Spirit doesn't open your heart and minds to understand what we're dealing with, then I can't help you.

I am trying to write these reports as if I were writing a letter to a friend. The myriad commentaries I have seen on the Book of Leviticus are generally so overly scholarly that they can't be understood. I believe more than half of the commentators on Leviticus have never actually studied it before putting their pen to paper. You may also note that there just aren't very many commentaries of Leviticus available. That leaves very little knowledge by mankind about this book. I do not claim to know it all, but I will certainly type out every last thought I have on it. I do pray someone gets meaning from this safari somewhere. If God makes a way, I will be publishing every last word in the Bible with a commentary - for the second time. Pray for that if you think you should. It's all I have – your prayers. I just want to make this real to your hearts because I know what the Bible has done for my life. When I look at how the Bible is so correct on this earth, I have to

assume it is correct in eternity. One would be a fool to even contemplate that this thing isn't as real as raindrops! I am a plain, ordinary man that does plain, ordinary things – just like you. I pray God will fill all of you dear readers with peace, grace and mercy as He cleanses the sins from our lives – together. We ask for a new hope in our Savior and Lord Jesus; it is in His Name that we pray to our Father in Heaven!

In this report, we are going to examine the ceremony of the cleansing of leprosy. I must INSIST that we are NOT being given a cure for leprosy in this section of Scripture but, rather, the Lord is going to demonstrate for us in humanistic terms how He does it. In the last leg of our safari, we saw the details of leprosy and how the priests arrived at a diagnosis and the criteria for a decision regarding who was clean and unclean. Of course, we looked at all kinds of leprosy in the last chapter. In this report, we are going to see a very definite remedy for leprosy but, again, its NOT a cure! Some people were healed with treatments and oils - and some were healed supernaturally, as we have suggested.

Leprosy in Scripture is not presented as a disease without hope or remedy. It is presented as only being treatable and only curable by the Great Physician, the Lord Jesus Christ! Leprosy is the worst disease they knew about in that day, so it is the type used for sin by the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. We have tremendous spiritual lessons in all of this, to be sure. Here we have a ray of light and we see hope come into the plight of the diseased man who will seek the proper, correct and compete cleansing treatment.

The sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden effected both God and man. Sin actually went in two directions at that point – down and out. Sin originated in Heaven, friends – don't forget that! Well, sin made man guilty before God and now a penalty must be paid before man can be acceptable to a Holy God! Man became simultaneously polluted and contaminated with sin. Leprosy reveals the pollution of sin in the flesh! It is simply contamination of the flesh by an outside organism. So, down came guilt from Heaven and outward went the pollution of and to mankind. We are now going to examine the most unique and unusual offerings that we will

find in the Bible. It is certainly a most unusual treatment for the cleansing of leprosy...

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest:

3 And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper;

~ Notice the priest did not go out to heal, but to see if the healing had happened! That is a significant statement, and a huge distinction is made by it. This will be the law for the day of his cleansing. This is another detailed ritual that is to be strictly adhered to. This ceremony always followed the curing of a case of leprosy. Only the priest can declare the man unclean and only the priest can declare him cleansed now. This involved two steps in the process. First, the priest must go out and meet the man where he was. The leper was shut out completely, so he was forbidden from coming into camp society and unto the priest. Remember, the lepers in Luke chapter seventeen stood afar off. Well, they stood afar off because they had to! Christ came forth from Heavens glory to this sin cursed earth. I don't think God could make this any clearer; and it should be clear we aren't welcome in Heaven until we are healed! We have been put out of the camp today! That's where you and I are, my friends; and if you doubt ANY of this then you just happen to doubt the entire Word of God!

Let's be real; mankind believes he accomplished a significant scientific achievement by traveling to the moon. Tragically, space is now just another hi-tech junkyard. There is more space garbage littering our orbit than we can imagine. For authorities to track every single piece of that garbage debris reveals technology's abject futility. By the time any advances are made in space it will be dangerous to travel there. All you have to do is hit one pencil lead size piece of debris while traveling at sixteen thousand miles per hour and you have a major catastrophe. There are no second chances in space! We are so interested in going there, but Christ came FROM Heavens glory to this earth! Out of His Ivory Palaces and into a world

of woe! That's HIS story! That's what's real, my beloved. An emphasis will be placed on Christ's long pilgrimage to the earth in this Spiritual Safari as He leaves Heavens glory and comes to this earth - but not here.

The writer to the Hebrews says, *".... but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.... For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."*

All of this was done in glory! When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons. Even in this Laodicean church day, when Christ is obviously no longer in the organized church, He says, *"behold, I stand at the door and knock!"* If any man hear His voice and open the door, Christ will come in and have fellowship with that person. That is the entire purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ coming down to this earth. Christ came down here to touch and heal us lepers that we might be made whole....

4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:

5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water:

6 As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water:

7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.

~ Alright, there is nothing as unusual as this ceremony is in the Word of God that I can locate. This is how easily the leprosy that we spent SO much time talking about and offering for is healed. All sacrifices that were made in the tabernacle were offered upon the brazen altar; and we painstakingly pointed that out. This is the one exception! The altar is the cross of Christ, and it was right here on earth; but Christ went out to where the leper is. The leper had no access to the tabernacle, of course. Folks, any way you cut it you are shut out completely from God unless Christ comes out and puts you on His shoulders and carries you back into the fold! We are strangers standing afar off without hope and without God completely. THEN, Christ came out to where we were to meet our needs.

One bird speaks of the death of Christ and the other bird speaks to the resurrection of Christ. These are the two primary facets of the Gospel, and both are essential. On our safari we also demand the burial of Christ to be included - but that is not a point here. Paul mentions all three elements for a very definite reason, so we teach along the same lines. Christ communicates to us from His Word in myriad ways those things that He wants to say! That's the real wonder of Scripture, friends.

Cedar wood is another symbol of the perfect humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Cedar also served a practical purpose. The scarlet string that tied the handle of the brush to the hyssop was a sign of faith in the blood. Rahab was instructed to tie the scarlet cord as evidence of her faith, you may recall! Hyssop grows on rocks in damp places. Hyssop represents the faith of an individual. This all speaks completely to the appropriation and application of the redemption we receive in Christ.

Now you can stand on the side lines and nod your head and cheer for team Jesus and even profess to believe He really did die down here and all of that – and you may even have recited that He is the Son of God – but none of that means you are saved, friends. Not by any means does that profession make you saved. Have you really trusted Christ? Does that mean something

in your life or is it just an afterthought most of the time? When is the last time you told Jesus you love Him in a prayerful and detailed confession of sins?

The earthen vessel also speaks to the humanity of Christ. He took part in our fleshly humanity. We're told we have this treasure in earthen vessels and that is this body that we have. The emphasis here is upon the weakness and infirmity of our humanity. Christ was in all points tested like as we are. The difference is: Christ was without sin!

Running water is living water taken from a branch of moving water, of course. Branch water is like a little creek that meanders off of the main river; some call it a rivulet – it's running water! This speaks to both the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The entire ritual is both unusual and awesomely beautiful. One of the birds is slain over the earthen vessel in which is living water. This represents the death of Christ that offered Himself by the eternal Spirit. *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* Two birds were essential because one is killed, and one goes free. The live bird is dipped with the blood of the bird that was slain to identify the two together. Christ was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. In short, this was all done to give us the liberty to stand fast in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul tells us to stand fast therefore in the liberty in which Christ has made us free and be not entangled again with the cares of the world.

Christ took our place in death and paid the penalty. Christ was raised for us and because we died in Him, we are raised in Him, also! That means we are in Christ in Heaven because He has been raised from the dead. The Lord Jesus Christ lives today, and we are joined to Him. The believer is as free as the birds of Heaven; and in that we ought to rejoice; and again, I say, rejoice! We are delivered from the religions and rituals and laws of religion that are nothing but enslaving philosophies. We are now a voluntary bond slave in Christ Jesus, and we are subject to Him. Jesus said, *"IF you love Me, keep my commandments."*

Hyssop denotes the faith of the sinner in the application of the blood of Christ. Remember, David cried out, “... *purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean!*” The application of the blood of Christ to our sins is so vitally important because until the sin question is settled in our lives we are going nowhere with God, friends. You can just write that down. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, then we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. The application in our lives cannot be neglected.

The blood and the water meet for the first time in this ceremony. When the spear was thrust into the side of Christ on the cross both water and blood came out; not just one or the other – both! John mentions that in his Gospel and his first epistle. One of the Gnostic schools in that day taught that Jesus was not God, but that God came upon Him at His baptism (by water) but departed again from Him at the cross (in blood). John maintains and insists that Jesus was God from verse one of his Gospel through the end of Revelation. That just happens to be the testimony of Scriptures, and there are three that bear witness; in earth – the Spirit of God, the water, and the blood – these three all agree in one! This is simply a marvelous compilation of understanding we have set before us. The ceremonial account of the cleansing of this leper bears out every aspect of what God is speaking to us about. We have so much spiritual meaning in this section of Scripture that we simply cannot possibly absorb it all. Even if we read through this a hundred times, we would never collect all of the depth and we could never digest all of the spiritual nutrients God has packed inside this corn. Truths beyond measure are to be had in this part of the Bible if we search them out diligently....

8 And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

9 But it shall be on the seventh day, that he shall shave all his hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.

~ I'm sure most people will agree that this is highly unusual. This entire chapter is strange and unfamiliar to all except the sincerest of Bible students. This happens to be part of a sacrificial ceremony that should be very real in your life! How far do you actually get to the tabernacle doors today in prayer? We are talking about the acceptance of a leper here as he returns back to society. The old life of this man has ended now and a new life with hope and possibilities begins again.

The clothes represent the habits of life, and a wardrobe is still called a habit, also. Shaving off all the hair speaks to the radical and revolutionary change exhibited in the outward behavior of a man that has come to Christ as a born-again believer! Putting away of this flesh is essential to a consistent walk before the world! By their fruits ye shall know them. That still happens to be the test standard for His own children. Seven days represents the completeness of the cycle of inspection and testing. All of us lepers are to be tested seven days before we are received back into camp society.

Most people are giving their "testimony" WAY too soon in their Christian life. It's particularly appalling amongst the elite and rich crowd. I can actually respect people more for their denials of Christ because it is the only truth they have. Every other thought is malicious and every deed they do is within the context of a lie! Well, these people are shut away AFTER they have been cleansed from their leprosy. Then, after that, they get another bath! The child of God must continually do this. We get clean through the Word of God which I have spoken unto you and sanctified through Thy truth Thy Word is truth! Friends, you will NEVER be sanctified or set apart for the service of God until you come to the Word of God properly, correctly and completely....

10 And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of fine flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil.

~ The ceremonial offering of the two birds outside the camp does not complete the ritual. The man is made fit to enter the congregation of the

Lord again; but, when he does, he must bring what every other Israelite brought to the tabernacle and do what every other man had to do. Then, and only then, was the acceptance of the cleansed leper complete. Now, the ritual, which is spelled out here in the next ten verses, is just one long sentence in the Authorized Version! It encompasses ALL of the offerings.

The cleansed leper is standing now at the door of the tabernacle just like anyone else in the camp would. Everything we see, literally, speaks of Christ and how He has been made acceptable to God! This is NOT given just because the man is a cleansed leper, either! Most Christians today are in extreme danger of beginning to think they are super duper saints. We have groups that fracture off and declare they're going to live differently and be special people; they really do think they are so much better than YOU! My friends, you come to Christ just like the rest of the camp is coming to Christ or you are just not coming to the tabernacle of Christ! All of these offerings had to be made to be complete.

Have you made them all or are you resisting your feet being washed as did Simon Peter? Peter found out the hard way that he was very wrong telling Jesus that Jesus wasn't going to wash his feet. If Christ doesn't cleanse us continually, you'll not have any fellowship with God, says Jesus. The Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart right now if you are reading this. If the Spirit of God isn't pulling you through this report, you stopped reading long ago! The idea that you will withdraw from others and establish your own little group or following or thinking you don't have to go to church to serve God or be involved with the cause of Christ reveals that you have missed the point of the Book of Leviticus in the Word of God completely! When the leper was brought back cleansed, he was brought back into the congregation of the Lord! We stand as sinners before a Holy God, and we need constant cleansing! Have I not stressed that enough? Have I overdone the sin question? ~

11 And the priest that maketh him clean shall present the man that is to be made clean, and those things, before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

12 And the priest shall take one he lamb, and offer him for a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering before the LORD:

13 And he shall slay the lamb in the place where he shall kill the sin offering and the burnt offering, in the holy place: for as the sin offering is the priest's, so is the trespass offering: it is most holy:

14 And the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

15 And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and pour it into the palm of his own left hand:

16 And the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD:

17 And of the rest of the oil that is in his hand shall the priest put upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot, upon the blood of the trespass offering:

18 And the remnant of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall pour upon the head of him that is to be cleansed: and the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD.

19 And the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed from his uncleanness; and afterward he shall kill the burnt offering:

20 And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the meat offering upon the altar: and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and he shall be clean.

21 And if he be poor, and cannot get so much; then he shall take one lamb for a trespass offering to be waved, to make an atonement for him, and one tenth deal of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering, and a log of oil;

22 And two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, such as he is able to get; and the one shall be a sin offering, and the other a burnt offering.

23 And he shall bring them on the eighth day for his cleansing unto the priest, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, before the LORD.

24 And the priest shall take the lamb of the trespass offering, and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD:

25 And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

26 And the priest shall pour of the oil into the palm of his own left hand:

27 And the priest shall sprinkle with his right finger some of the oil that is in his left hand seven times before the LORD:

28 And the priest shall put of the oil that is in his hand upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot, upon the place of the blood of the trespass offering:

29 And the rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put upon the head of him that is to be cleansed, to make an atonement for him before the LORD.

30 And he shall offer the one of the turtledoves, or of the young pigeons, such as he can get;

31 Even such as he is able to get, the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, with the meat offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed before the LORD.

32 This is the law of him in whom is the plague of leprosy, whose hand is not able to get that which pertaineth to his cleansing.

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

34 When ye be come into the land of Canaan, which I give to you for a possession, and I put the plague of leprosy in a house of the land of your possession;

35 And he that owneth the house shall come and tell the priest, saying, It seemeth to me there is as it were a plague in the house:

36 Then the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest go into it to see the plague, that all that is in the house be not made unclean: and afterward the priest shall go in to see the house:

37 And he shall look on the plague, and, behold, if the plague be in the walls of the house with hollow strakes, greenish or reddish, which in sight are lower than the wall;

38 Then the priest shall go out of the house to the door of the house, and shut up the house seven days:

39 And the priest shall come again the seventh day, and shall look : and, behold, if the plague be spread in the walls of the house;

40 Then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which the plague is, and they shall cast them into an unclean place without the city:

41 And he shall cause the house to be scraped within round about, and they shall pour out the dust that they scrape off without the city into an unclean place:

42 And they shall take other stones, and put them in the place of those stones; and he shall take other mortar, and shall plaster the house.

43 And if the plague come again, and break out in the house, after that he hath taken away the stones, and after he hath scraped the house, and after it is plastered;

44 Then the priest shall come and look, and, behold, if the plague be spread in the house, it is a fretting leprosy in the house: it is unclean.

45 And he shall break down the house, the stones of it, and the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place.

46 Moreover he that goeth into the house all the while that it is shut up shall be unclean until the even.

47 And he that lieth in the house shall wash his clothes; and he that eateth in the house shall wash his clothes.

48 And if the priest shall come in, and look upon it, and, behold, the plague hath not spread in the house, after the house was plastered: then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the plague is healed.

49 And he shall take to cleanse the house two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:

50 And he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water:

51 And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird, and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times:

52 And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet:

53 But he shall let go the living bird out of the city into the open fields, and make an atonement for the house: and it shall be clean.

54 This is the law for all manner of plague of leprosy, and scall,

55 And for the leprosy of a garment, and of a house,

56 And for a rising, and for a scab, and for a bright spot:

57 To teach when it is unclean, and when it is clean: this is the law of leprosy.

~ We're going to close with an emphatic command to enforce these laws strenuously. I admit it is always unusual to me to read through this section of Scripture. At least our expedition ends this report with a clean house – free of leprosy. The entire Spiritual Safari World International Headquarters has been fumigated and sprayed for contagious diseases - and we are all clear – for the moment! Someone could walk through the door with a communicable disease any moment or we could bring it in on our clothes without even knowing it; then we will be right back at square one with God! I'm not sure about you, but I find comfort in that, somehow. It's not pretty, actually; but it's very real. Sin will keep you from the Bible or the Bible will keep you from sin!

You and I live in an old house down here – it's more of an old tent – and it is filled with leprosy until cleansed. You still have the old nature in the body as long as you breathe air and eat physical food. We will all be trading our old bodies in one day for a new one but, until that day, we must be cleansed continually from all sin. The priests here come in and remove all the furniture and perform their rituals. Then, they look over the house again after seven days; it had to be inspected for unmitigated malignant growth!

We saw in this chapter the priests removing the plaster and taking down walls – they just about had to build a new house. Sometimes the house must be torn down and a new one built in its place. One day, there will be a new Heaven and a new earth. This is what Christ says He is going to do - make all things new. We are to TEACH His laws and precepts to generations to come, and we can only do so in a cleansed condition. In Christ – and ONLY in Christ – are we accepted in the Beloved. Where are you today? Are you a leper that's not been cleansed? Or are you a leper that has been cleansed? Paul said, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God! What are you doing to get cleansed and get the purifying water of the Word of God out to a lost and dying world? ~
