Leviticus 13-14

Review…

- **Introduction**
  - The Main theme of the Book is - Holiness...
    - God is perfect - holy - righteous - and His standard for us is His Holiness...
    - Key verse - **Leviticus 19:2** - "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."
  - Two main divisions to Leviticus...
    - Leviticus 1-16 - Laws concerning 'Ceremonial Holiness' - our relationship with God...
    - Leviticus 17-27 - Laws concerning 'Practical Holiness' - our daily lives...
- **Leviticus 1-5 - laws concerning the 4 sacrifices to the Lord…**
  - The Burnt offering - the offering of submission / The Grain offering - thankfulness...
  - The Peace offering - fellowship / The sin offering - the offering for breaking God's Law...
- **Leviticus 6-9 - Instructions to the priests - dedication of the priests…**
- **Leviticus 10 - Misrepresenting hte Lord…**
  - In the excitement of the dedication - Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire...
  - Fire came out from the Lord and consumed them - they died there before the Lord...
- **Leviticus 11-12 - Laws concerning clean and unclean / birth of a new baby…**
  - God gave Israel 5 categories of clean and unclean animals...
    - 1st - to test their commitment to the Lord - would they follow God's commands...
    - 2nd - to keep them healthy - forbidding them to eat dangerous foods...
  - God gave Israel STRICT rules regarding dead animals...
    - 1st - to set Israel apart from all the other nations - a light to the world...
    - 2nd - to make the people of Israel constantly - daily - think about the Lord!
  - God gave new mothers rules concerning the birth of a new baby...
    - 7 days she would be unclean - a time to recover from the ordeal of birth...
    - 40 days she would unable to go to the temple - a time to bond with her son...
    - Also a time to consider the challenge of brining up a child in a sinful world...
    - Then she was then to offer a sacrifice at the temple - for the sin of her child!

Laws concerning skin disease…

- **1st - A CONTAGIOUS SKIN DISEASE… (*4 THINGS*) LEVITICUS 13:1-47**
  - Contagious diseases were potentially a devastating problem in ancient times...
    - Keep in mind the children of Israel are all living in a tent city - close quarters...
    - There were no antibiotics - there were no vaccines - medical treatment was limited!
    - Any disease would quickly spread - and had the potential to kills thousands...
    - So God has VERY strict Laws to prevent a catastrophic outbreak...
  - 1st - Skin disorders... Read: Leviticus 13:1-17
    - If a person has a swelling/rash/or shiny patch on their skin..
    - They had to go to the priest - he would examine the spot to see if it was a skin disease...
    - If it appeared to be only skin deep - no open wound - hair had not turned white (*dead*)
      - The person would be isolated for 7 days - then rechecked by the priest...
      - If it still had not gotten any worse - they would be isolated for another 7 days...
      - If after 14 days the rash/swelling had healed or not gotten worse - they were clean!
    - If it appeared to be more than skin deep - the hair has turned white (*died*)...
      - There was no reason for more inspections - it was clearly an infectious disease...
      - The people were to be pronounced ceremonially 'unclean' - meaning...
      - They were cut off from the camp - quarantined so the disease could not spread...
      - When Europe experienced the 'Black plague' in the Middle Ages - millions died...
      - Bubonic or 'black' plague - spread by contact - killed within 24-48 hours...
      - People would be alive and well in the morning - dead by evening!
      - Europe was only able to stop the plague by following these rules from Leviticus!
    - If the 'skin disease' covered the whole body - turning it white - with no open sores...
      - Then the person was clean - they did not have an infectious skin disease...
      - It was a rare skin disorder called '*Vitiligo*' - causes skin to lose its pigmentation...
      - But if an open sore did appear - the person will be pronounced 'unclean'...
  - 2nd - Open wounds - infections... Read: Leviticus 13:18-23
    - If a boil / burn / or sore appeared to be infected - you had to go to the priest...
    - If the priest found the hair had turned white (*dead*) - it was an infectious disease...
      - If the person had fine yellow hair in the wound - it was an infectious disease...
      - The person would be pronounced ceremonially 'unclean'...
      - In 1800s 1/3 of those who had operations - would die afterwards from infection!
      - The first man to every try antibiotics - died from a cut he made while shaving!
      - Before the days of antibiotics - a cut or burn could easily be lethal!
    - If the priest found no evidence of infection - the person was quarantined 7 days...

        - If the area grows no larger - it appears to be only 'skin deep'...
        - It is likely just a scar from the boil / burn / or sore - they are clean!
    - 3rd - Male pattern baldness... Read: Leviticus 13:40-41
        - If a man lost all his hair - or just the hair on his forehead - he was clean!
            - It is not a good idea to make fun of those who have no hair...
            - **II Kings 2:23-24** - a group of boys were mocking Elisha 'Go away, baldy!'
            - Elisha cursed them and two bears came out and mauled the mischievous boys!
            - In seriousness - it is unfortunate that people feel the need to make fun of others...
            - Everyone has 'something' they are self conscious of - hair / weight / nose / height...
            - People make fun of other's shortcomings - so they feel better about themselves...
            - Instead of tearing others down - we should be building them up in Jesus!
        - But if a reddish/white spot appear on the baldness - it is a skin disease!
        - The man is to be pronounced ceremonially 'unclean'...
    - 4th - The consequence of a contagious skin disease... Read: Leviticus 13:45-46
        - The Bible uses 'Leprosy' as a generic term to refer to any kind of skin disease...
            - Leprosy is a disease that attacks the body's nervous system so you can't feel...
            - It can be very dangerous because you don't know if you harm yourself…
            - Touch a hot stove - cut yourself on a blade - you would not have known!
        - Carried with it a horrible stigma…
            - If you were diagnosed with leprosy you would be cut off from the community...
            - If anyone even walked close to you, you had to cry out 'unclean!'
            - Because no one could touch you or they would also become unclean - infected…
        - Symbolically used to refer to sin…
            - Just like leprosy - sin takes away your sensitivity to what is right and wrong
            - The first time you commit a sin (*lying*) it is the hardest – you feel it was wrong...
                - It gets easier and easier each time though - you stop feeling the guilt...
                - Eventually you lose all feeling of guilt and remorse…
                - Causing you to be cut off and isolated from God – unclean!
            - Sin also spreads VERY quickly - from one person to another...
                - You don't want to go to the disco - but 'everyone' else tells you to go...
                - Before you know it the sin has spread - infected another person!

- **2ND - INFECTIOUS MILDEW IN CLOTHING… VS. 48-59**
    - If a piece of fabric/leather/wool - has a spot of green or red... Read: Leviticus 13:47-49
        - It is an infectious mold - and must be shown to the priest...
        - The priest will set it aside for 7 days - if it spreads - it is unclean and must be burned...

- If it has not spread - it is to be washed - and left for 7 more days...
- If the spot has not faded - it is unclean and must be burned...
- If the spot fades - it is to be cut out - but the remaining material is clean...

  - Clothing can cause you to be unclean...
    - We are not as concerned about 'mold' today - because we have bleach...
    - But we can still be made 'unclean' by clothing - by the love of things...
    - *** I John 2:15 -** "Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you."
    - If we love our clothes - if we love the things of this world - more than God - unclean...
    - The things are not the problem - it is the attitude of our heart...
    - We need to take our things to the Lord - and let Him clean them - or cut them out...

- **3RD - INFECTIOUS MILDEW IN YOUR HOUSE… Leviticus 14:33-57**
  - When you arrive in the Promised Land... Read: Leviticus 14:33-36
    - If your house appears to have an infectious mildew - you must go to the priest...
    - You need to first empty your house - so everything inside is not declared unclean...
    - Then the priest will come and look for green or red mold - lock the house for 7 days...
  - If the spot has spread - those stones must be taken out - they are unclean!
    - The walls must be scrapped - the whole house re-plastered (*painted*)...
    - If the mold still comes back - the whole house must be destroyed - it is unclean!
    - What do we hang on the walls of our heart - what does God see when He comes in...
    - Do we have His Word written on our hearts - **Psalms 119:11**
    - Or are there images - thoughts - that we would be ashamed to admit were ours...
    - We need to tear out those things in our heart that would defile us...
    - Before they spread - turning our heart from the Lord - and the whole house is lost!
    - *** Hebrews 3:13** - "You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called 'today,' so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God."
  - If the spot does not return - the house is ceremonially clean!

- **4TH - THE CURE FOR LEPROSY… (*3 things*) Leviticus 14:1-32**
  - 1st - There was no cure for Leprosy in Ancient time – but God... Read: Leviticus 14:1-9
    - The leper took two birds / cedar-wood / scarlet cloth / and hyssop as a sacrifice...
      - One bird was sacrificed so that the other bird could be set free…
      - The cedar wood – was a picture of the cross of Jesus Christ...
      - Scarlet cloth - was a picture of sin…
      - * **Isaiah 1:18** – "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."
      - The hyssop branch – the picture of how Jesus took away our sin…
      - * **Palms 51:7** – "Purge me with hyssop, and I will be clean..."
    - The sacrifice was a picture of Jesus - Jesus is the cure for sin!
      - Jesus died on the cross in our place so that we might be set free...
      - He took our sins (*that were scarlet*) & purged us (*with hyssop*) so we are clean!
  - 2nd - A restoration of fellowship...
    - The curse of leprosy (*sin*) is being cut off from fellowship - with others / and with God!
    - If you were 'unclean' - the temple/priest was the place to go for the cure...
    - The church is not for saints - it is a hospital for sinners...
    - You wouldn't be surprised to see sick people in a hospital - nor sinners in a church!
    - It is there we can learn about Jesus - find the cure for our sin!
  - 3rd - A new beginning... Read: Leviticus 14:14-17
    - The leper had to shave his body - wait 7 days - then he was pronounced clean...
    - On the 8th day he had offer two lambs - a sin offering / and a trespass offering
    - 1st - the trespass offering was for those sins the leper knew he had committed...
      - The blood of the sacrifice was put on his right ear/ thumb / and toe...
      - The idea being - be careful of what we hear - what we do - and where we go...
      - Don't go back to those things that made you unclean...
      - * **I Peter 1:13-14** - "So think clearly and exercise self-control... Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil..."
    - 2nd - the priest would take oil and put in on the leper's right ear / thumb / and toe...
      - In the Bible oil is used as a 'picture' of the Holy Spirit - **I Samuel 16:13**
      - God does not leave you to your own 'best efforts' to avoid you 'old ways'...
      - He give you the power of the Spirit - to guard you ears - guide your hands and feet...
      - The remained oil would be poured over his head!
      - God doesn't' just give you a little of the Spirit - if you let Him - He will overflow you!
      - Power to avoid the 'old ways' - incredible power to live a life sold out for God...

- *** Ephesians 1:19-20** - "I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."

- 3rd - the sin offering was for those sins he had unknowingly committed...
  - The point being all of his sins were cleansed - he was completely forgiven!
  - We were all lepers - devastated by a life of sin - separated from fellowship with God
  - We chased after the things of this world - with a heart hardened towards God...
  - But we have been saved - set free by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross...
  - By the power of His Spirit - we can now live a life sold out for the Lord!