



Lesson 23 – The Cleansing of the Leper

Read Leviticus 14:1-20

Of all the diseases to which mankind is heir, there is none more loathsome than leprosy. The individual lives for years with this dread disease slowly eating away portions of his body until he longs for death as a release. From earliest times leprosy has been a type of sin, and a very fitting type is of that loathsome spiritual disease that destroys the soul of the one who violates his conscience again and again until he has no power to resist, and becomes wholly surrendered to evil.

- 1) What happened to Miriam when she murmured against her brother Moses?
Numbers 12:10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became _____, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

When Miriam became jealous of her sister-in-law, and she and Aaron murmured against Moses, **“the anger of the Lord was kindled against them. . . And, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow.”** After God had taught the lesson that the sins of jealousy, murmuring, and fault-finding are to the spiritual life what leprosy is to the physical being, then, in answer to Moses' prayer, she was healed.

- 2) What happened to Gehazi the servant of Elisha when he coveted Naaman's treasure?
2 Kings 5:20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not _____ at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.
2 Kings 5:26-27 And he said unto him, Went not mine _____ with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall _____ unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

It is not strange that, with the record of the experiences of Miriam and Gehazi before them, the Jews should look upon leprosy as a judgment from the Lord.

- 3) If you had Leprosy, what were you to do?
Leviticus 13:45 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, _____,
_____.
Leviticus 13:46 All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell _____; without the camp shall his habitation be.



The leper was not allowed to mingle with the people. There was no exception, from the king on the throne to the lowliest bondservant.

4) When someone was cleansed from Leprosy, what was the offering?

Leviticus 14:4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two _____ alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:

Leviticus 14:5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running _____:

Leviticus 14:6 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 _____ of the bird that was killed over the running water:

Leviticus 14:7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him _____, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.

As leprosy was a type of the worst sins, the ceremony for the cleansing of the leper embraced more than any other offering. The priest, who had examined the leper and pronounced him unclean, was the only one that could pronounce him clean. The priest went outside the camp and examined the leper, and if the leprosy was healed, then the healed man was to **bring "two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop,"** unto the priest. One of the birds was killed in an earthen vessel held over running water; then the living bird, the scarlet, and the cedar were all dipped in the blood. The priest sprinkled the blood seven times upon the one who was to be cleansed and pronounced him clean.

Leprosy is a very contagious disease; everything the leper touches is contaminated. Sin also is a dreadful disease, and the earth, air, and water are all cursed by the sins of humanity and must be cleansed by the same blood which cleanses man. Therefore, after the leper was pronounced clean, the live bird, it's feathers scarlet with the blood, was let loose to fly through the air. The blood was not only sprinkled on the person who had been unclean, but it was thus carried through the air that was laden with germs of disease and sin, in the type of the blood of Christ which will give a new heaven – a new atmosphere – to this sin-cursed earth.

The wonderful symbol of the living bird dipped in the blood of the slain bird, and then set free to its joyous life, is to us the symbol of the atonement. There were death and life blended, presenting to the searcher of truth the hidden treasure, the union of the pardoning blood with the resurrection and life of our Redeemer. The bird was slain over living water; that flowing stream was a symbol of the ever flowing, ever cleansing efficacy of the blood of Christ.

5) Besides the birds, cedar and hyssop, what else was the leper to bring for a sacrifice?

Leviticus 14:4 Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and _____, and hyssop:

Here the scarlet is wool dipped in the blood of the offering



6) What did Isaiah promise us?

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as _____ as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as _____.

There was a significance in the color of the wool dipped in the blood of the typical offering. It is almost impossible to remove scarlet stains, but **“though your sins be as scarlet,”** the blood of Christ can make them **“white as snow.”** You may be condemned and counted as an outcast by everyone on earth: but if you look to the Saviour and claim His cleansing power, He will wash away your sins, and put joy and rejoicing in your heart.

7) What was the cleansed leper to bring on the 8th day of his cleansing?

Leviticus 14:10 And on the _____ 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.

On the eighth day after he was pronounced clean, he was to appear before the priest with three lambs, a meat offering, and a log of oil. The priest presented the man to be cleansed at the door of the tabernacle and waved one of the lambs and the log of oil before the Lord.

8) What did the priest do with some of the blood and oil?

Leviticus 14:14 And the priest shall take some of the _____ 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:

Leviticus 14:16-17 And the priest shall dip his right finger in the _____ that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD: 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:

He then slew the lamb, and took some of the blood and put it upon **“the tip of the right ear”** of him that was to be cleansed, **“and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot,”** thus consecrating his ears to hear only those things that would tend to keep him clean, his hands to the service of God, and his feet to travel only in the way of the Lord's commandments. Then the priest took the log of oil, and after sprinkling a portion of it before the Lord, he put some of it **“upon the tip of the right ear”** of him that was to be cleansed, also the thumb of his right hand, and **“upon the great toe of his right foot,”** and then anointed his head with the remainder of the oil.

This service was not an empty form, but a type of a blessed antitype, which is fulfilled in every Christian who presents himself for service before the Lord, after the Lord forgives his sins and pronounces him clean.



The Cross and It's Shadow Study Guides
Based on Stephen N Haskell's book



The leper cleansed from that loathsome, living death, felt so thankful to God for freedom and cleansing that he consecrated his life to the Lord for service. Not only is the oil, an emblem of the Holy Spirit which prepares the Christian for service, touched to his ear, hand, and foot, but it is poured upon his head, thus betokening a full surrender of the entire being to the service of His Master who has redeemed him. The books of heaven record the names of many who have fulfilled this beautiful antitype by surrendering their entire being to the service of their Redeemer.



TYPE

ANTITYPE

"The entire system of Judaism was the gospel veiled."

Lev. 14: 6, 7. Blood was sprinkled on the one to be cleansed.	1 Peter 1: 2. The sprinkling of the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin.
Lev. 14: 6. Cedar, scarlet, and hyssop were dipped in the blood. 1 Kings 4: 33. Cedar and hyssop are extremes in vegetation. Heb. 9: 19.	John 19: 29. The hyssop was brought in connection with the Saviour, while the cross was made from the trees of the forest.
Lev. 14: 5. The bird was killed and the blood caught in an earthen vessel.	Luke 22: .44. Jesus' blood came in contact with the earth.
Lev. 14: 6, 7. The bird that had been dipped in the blood was let loose to fly through the air. Jer. 9: 21. Air is unclean.	Rev. 21: 1. There will be a new heaven (atmospheric heaven), as the result of Christ's death. His blood dropped through the air from the cross.
Lev. 14: 14, 17. The tip of the ear was touched with the blood and oil.	Isa. 42: 18-20. God's servants are deaf to things they should not hear.
Lev. 14: 14, 17. The thumb of the right hand was touched with blood and oil.	Ps. 119: 48. "My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments, which I have loved."
Lev. 14: 14, 17. The toe of the right foot was touched with the blood.	Gen. 17: 1. "I am the Almighty God: walk before Me, and be thou perfect."



Can you see how sin is a deadly disease? _____

Are you interested in becoming clean? _____

Will you now ask Him now to cleanse you? _____