

Doctrine of Leprosy

1. Most of what the Bible has to say about leprosy is found in Leviticus 13 and 14.
2. Anyone suspected of leprosy was to be brought before Aaron the priest, or one of his sons, the priests, for a final determination thereby indicating the spiritual nature of the dreaded disease.
 - *Leviticus 13:2 When a man shall have in the skin of his flesh a rising, a scab, or a 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:*
3. A person determined by the priests to have leprosy was to be declared unclean.
 - *Leviticus 13:3 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.*
4. Leprosy serves as an excellent illustration of the nature of sin. Sin is a dreaded disease and makes all people unclean in the sight of God. Sin goes deeper into the essence of man and is not something that can be addressed by outward moral reformation.
5. Sin, like leprosy spreads to affect the whole man, body, soul and spirit.
 - *Leviticus 13:8 And if the priest see that, behold, the scab spreadeth in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it is a leprosy.*
 - *Leviticus 13:12 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;*
6. Leprosy could be cured. So there is a cure for sin, even the blood of Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 13:13 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.
7. As leprosy defiled all that it touched, so sin defiles all that it touches. A dreaded disease requires drastic action to deal with it.
 - *Leviticus 13:52 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.*

8. The person with leprosy was sent outside the camp, or outside the sphere of fellowship of God's people. So Christ was sent outside the camp to die for His people in order to bear their sins in His own body.
- *Leviticus 14:3 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;*
 - *Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*
9. When a person was cured of leprosy they were to be sprinkled seven times and then pronounced cured. So the blood of Christ is sprinkled to the defiled conscience of the sinner in order to cleanse it.
- *Leviticus 14:7 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.*
 - *Heb 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*
10. Sometimes leprosy manifested itself in the form of divine discipline.
- *Leviticus 14:34 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;*
 - *2 Kings 5:27 The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.*
 - *2 Chronicles 26:19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.*
11. The Israelites were instructed to take leprosy seriously, both its cause and cure. So sin is to be taken seriously, both its cause and cure.
- *Deuteronomy 24:8 Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do.*
12. The person with leprosy was to be the object of pity not scorn. When Naaman, the commanding general of the army of the king of Syria contracted leprosy, a slave girl in his household took pity upon him.
- *2 Kings 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! For he would recover him of his leprosy.*

13. Great efforts were made on Naaman's behalf to cure him of leprosy.

- *2 Kings 5:6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.*

14. Only God can cure leprosy, and only God can find a solution to the sin in the soul of man.

- *2 Kings 5:7 And it came to pass, when [Jehoram] the king of Israel had read the letter [from the king of Syria], that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.*

15. In tender love Jesus touched those with leprosy and healed them. There is no sin too great for the grace of God. Those who know of their defilement can run to Jesus and plead with Him saying, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."

- *Matthew 8:3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*
- *Mark 1:42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.*
- *Luke 5:12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.*
- *Luke 5:13 And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.*