

Leviticus 14 - Thursday, November 19th, 2009

- Though a long chapter like 13, Leviticus 14, is perhaps one of the most fascinating chapters in the Bible in how it portrays Jesus Christ.
- I'm of the belief that God desires to show the Children of Israel their need for a Savior by way of introducing them to their Savior.
- To say that these cleansing rituals for the leper then are a picture of the cleansing work for the sinner now would be an understatement.

Leviticus 14 has rituals for the priests that might seem very strange at first glance. To perform these rituals required two birds, cedar wood, a scarlet string, and hyssop. The first bird was slain in an earthen vessel, so that the blood and water would mix in the vessel. Then the live bird was put on the wood, and tied with a scarlet string. Then with a hyssop branch was dipped into the blood of the first bird. The leper would be sprinkled seven times with the blood and water. Then the live bird was set free. After this the leper was to shave all the hairs from the body thus changing his appearance. He was to remain clean, as was his whole house all for the "Promised Land". This is a beautiful picture of what the Lord does for man.

- I would like do something a little bit different in the teaching of this chapter because of the profound and even prophetic picture it paints.
- For every cleansing ritual, we see the corresponding typology in how it points to the person of Christ and the finished work on the cross.

14:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest.

1-2 "On the day of cleansing" for the leper is the same as the day of salvation for the sinner. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

2 The leper is brought to the priest as Jesus who became sin was brought to the high priest. (Mark 14:53)

3 And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the leper,

3 The Lord as our High Priest was to go outside the heavens, for a person to be healed of the sin disease. He was taken outside the city walls to be crucified. (John 19:20)

4 then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.

4 Our High Priest was fully God and fully man. (Matthew 1:23)

4 Cedar is a heavy wood resistant to disease. Some believe the wooden cross Jesus was crucified on was made of cedar, probably from Lebanon. (Luke 23:26)

4 They robed Jesus in a scarlet robe. (Matthew 27:28)

4 They put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a hyssop branch, and brought it up to His mouth. (John 19:29)

4 He's brought to death we're ones to be cleansed. (Luke 7:22)

Genesis 38 records a scarlet thread being tied on the hand by the midwife to mark the firstborn of Tamar's twins from her father in law Judah (the line of Jesus). Joshua 2 records how Rahab the prostitute hid two spies in her house before the destruction of Jericho by tying a scarlet cord in the window to let them escape. This saved her, and her house, and delivered them from death. The scarlet represents attributes of Jesus Christ - He is the firstborn from the dead (Tamar), he is our escape from the second death, and He is our deliverance (Rahab). Exodus 12 records how the Israelites used a long-stemmed hyssop plant to apply the slain Passover lamb's blood to their doorposts at four points forming a cross.

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

5 Then the priest ordered that Jesus be killed. (Luke 24:20)

5 To be sure Jesus was dead, one of the soldiers pierced His side causing blood and water to pour out. (John 19:34-35)

5 Just as the bird was to be killed in an earthen vessel, so too was Jesus killed in an earthen vessel. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

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

6 The bird (Jesus), the wood (Cross), the scarlet string (Sin), and the hyssop (Passover) were all soaked in the water and blood so we could be set free. (1 John 5:6)

7 And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose in the open field.

7 - The shed blood of the Passover Lamb of God Jesus Christ the Son of God cleanses us completely ("7").
- The work on the cross is complete; "it is finished". (1 John 1:7)

7 We are released from the law, and victorious with the resurrected Lord who is set free and rises to heaven (bird) and is seated at the right hand of the Father. (Mark 16:19)

"See how the two streams of blood and water meet in the type as they do yet more fully in Jesus. He, as slain for us, purges away our guilt; and as living for us, He is our righteousness. 'He was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.' He came not by water only, but by water and blood, and we also are now born of water and of the Spirit. Now also we fly in the open field, and a new song is in our mouth, even praise unto our God" Charles Spurgeon

8 He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, and shall stay outside his tent seven days. 9 But on the seventh day he shall shave all the hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows -- all his hair he shall shave off. He shall wash his clothes and wash his body in water, and he shall be clean.

8-9 The leper would shave off all his hair, and wash himself and his clothes in water and change in appearance with no hair like a newborn. The sinner that's had sins washed away looks different. The countenance changes when one is born again. (Jn 3:3)

10 "And on the Eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, and one log of oil.11 Then the priest who makes him clean shall present the man who is to be made clean, and those things, before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

10-11 | Though everything is complete with this new beginning ("8") it is up to the cleansed sinner (leper) to continue in his cleanliness. (Ephesians 5:26)

12 And the priest shall take one male lamb and offer it as a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.13 Then he shall kill the lamb in the place where he kills the sin offering and the burnt offering, in a holy place; for as the sin offering is the priest's, so is the trespass offering. It is most holy.14 The priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big 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 Then the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD.17 And of the rest of the oil in his hand, the priest shall put some on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the blood of the trespass offering.18 The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed. So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD. 19 "Then the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make atonement for him who is to be cleansed from his uncleanness. Afterward he shall kill the burnt offering.20 And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean. 21 "But if he is poor and cannot afford it, then he shall take one male lamb as a trespass offering to be waved, to make atonement for him, one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, a log of oil,22 and two turtledoves or two young pigeons, such as he is able to afford: one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.23 He shall bring them to the priest on the Eighth day for his cleansing, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, 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 as a wave offering before the LORD.25 Then 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 on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.26 And the priest shall pour some of the oil into the palm of his own left hand.27 Then 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 some of the oil that is in his hand on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of the right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the place of the blood of the trespass offering.29 The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before the LORD.30 And he shall offer one of the turtledoves or young pigeons, such as he can afford --31 such as he is able to afford, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, with the grain offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him who is to be cleansed before the LORD.32 This is the law for one who had a leprous sore, who cannot afford the usual cleansing."

12-32 | - Once cleansed, the sinner (leper) can be dedicated and consecrated, and is free to worship God.
- Leprosy (sin) wasn't cured it was cleansed, thus likening to a testimony of ones forgiven debt of sin. (Luke 5:14)

33 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:34 "When you have come into the land of Canaan, which I give you as a possession, and I put the leprous plague in a house in the land of your possession,35 and he who owns the house comes and tells the priest, saying, 'It seems to me that there is some plague in the house,'36 then the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest goes into it to examine the plague, that all that is in the house may not be made unclean; and afterward the priest shall go in to examine the house.37 And he shall examine the plague; and indeed if the plague is on the walls of the house with ingrained streaks, greenish or reddish, which appear to be deep in 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 on the seventh day and look; and indeed if the plague has spread on the walls of the house,40 then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which is the plague, and they shall cast them into an unclean place outside the city.41 And he shall cause the house to be scraped inside, all around, and the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city.42 Then they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones, and he shall take other mortar and plaster the house. 43 "Now if the plague comes back and breaks out in the house, after he has taken away the stones, after he has scraped the house, and after it is plastered,44 then the priest shall come and look; and indeed if the plague has spread in the house, it is an active leprosy in the house. It is unclean.45 And he shall break down the house, its stones, its timber, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall carry them outside the city to an unclean place.46 Moreover he who goes into the house at all while it is shut up shall be unclean until evening.47 And he who lies down in the house shall wash his clothes, and he who eats in the house shall wash his clothes. 48 "But if the priest comes in and examines it, and indeed the plague has 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, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.50 Then he shall kill one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water;51 and he shall take the cedar wood, the hyssop, 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 the running water and the living bird, with the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet.53 Then he shall let the living bird loose outside the city in the open field, and make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean. 54 "This is the law for any leprous sore and scale,55 for the leprosy of a garment and of a house,56 for a swelling and a scab and a bright spot,57 to teach when it is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law of leprosy."

33-57 | - The rest of the chapter deals with what the priests should do about leprous mildew or a fungus infestation in a house.
- The instructions are the same for us in our household as we serve the Lord. (Josh 24:15)

- In Leviticus 12 we saw a picture of being born with sin necessitating the need to be born again.
- In Leviticus 13 we saw a picture of the graphic nature of sin (leprosy) and what it can do to a person.
- In Leviticus 14 we now see a beautiful picture of what the Lord has done for us, because of what sin does to us.