

Leviticus 12: Life with God in a Fallen World

I. The First Anchor: God Speaks (v. 1)

- “The LORD spoke to Moses.”
- This is divine instruction, not human guesswork.
- God defines holiness and provides a way back.
- Grace is present before explanation.

II. The Meaning of “Unclean” (v. 2)

- Unclean ≠ wicked.
- Unclean describes fitness for sacred space.
- Unclean is related to sin, but it relates to sin differently than moral guilt.

III. Three Ways Sin Affects Us

- Guilt: sins we commit.
- Wounds: sins done against us.
- Creation Groaning: impersonal effects of a broken creation.
- Purity rituals in Leviticus often deal with this third category: living in a fallen world.

IV. Why Childbirth Involves Uncleaness

- Blood represents life; blood loss points toward death.
- Birth holds joy and fragility together.
- God names death as the enemy, even in life’s best moments.
- The sanctuary dramatizes God as the God of life.
- God is not ordinary, and approaching him is not casual.

V. The Waiting Period (vv. 2–5)

- Shame was a lived experience, and God provides restoration as a lived experience.
- The cleansing God prescribed was not humiliating; it was honorable.

- Restoration is not an instant cure.
- God builds rest and recovery into worship.

VI. Why the Time Is Doubled for a Daughter? (v. 5)

- Not female inferiority.
- Circumcision publicly marks the son.
- Extended time functions as a fitting counterpart of consecration.
- Same goal: restored mother, received child, return to worship.

VII. The Way Back to God (vv. 6–7)

- Sin offering is better understood as a purification offering.
- The mother is told to bring two offerings:
 - Sin offering: removes the impurity that restricted access to sacred space.
 - Burnt offering: consecrates the now-cleansed worshiper in renewed devotion.

VIII. The Mercy Clause (vv. 8)

- God makes a provision for the poor.
- Purity rituals are not about keeping people out, but enabling them to draw near.
- Cleansing is based on God's provision for you.
- Verse 8 foreshadows the logic of the cross.
- The end result: the priest makes atonement and God declares her clean – not based on the merit of the worshipper, but based on trust in God's provision.

IX. What we take away...

- Weakness is not wickedness
- In a fallen world, where Heaven is not yet, sadness is sanity.

There is nothing new under the sun, but the Gospel responds that all things are being made new under the Son.