

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: Forsaken for Us
- B. Leprous Disease

Leviticus 14:54–57

⁵⁴ This is the law for *any case of leprous disease*: for an *itch*, ⁵⁵ for leprous disease *in a garment* or *in a house*, ⁵⁶ and for a swelling or an eruption or a spot, ⁵⁷ *to show when it is unclean and when it is clean*. This is the law for leprous disease.

- C. Review: Walking Dead
- D. Today's Questions:
 - 1. Why "leprous disease" in clothing?
 - 2. What would Israel have learned from the Two Birds Ceremony?
 - 3. What does this teach us about Jesus?

II. The What and the Whys

- A. The Law of "leprous disease" in clothing
 - 1. Color & spreading

Leviticus 13:49, 52

⁴⁹ if the disease is *greenish or reddish* in the garment, or in the skin or in *the warp or the woof* or in any article *made of skin*, it is a case of leprous disease, and *it shall be shown to the priest*. ... ⁵² And he shall burn the garment, or the warp or the woof..., for it is a persistent leprous disease. **It shall be burned in the fire.**

- 2. If "the disease has **not** spread" [53-58]
 - a. "wash"
 - b. If "has **not changed**" ... "it is **unclean**"
 - c. "if the diseased area has **faded**"
 - 1) "he shall **tear it out**"

- 2) “if it appears again ... it is spreading” ... [unclean]
 - 3) **“But** the garment...from which the disease departs ...washed a second time... be clean”
3. Why “leprous disease” in clothing?
 - a. Clean cloths needed (Genesis 3:21)
 - b. Clean cloths provided

Revelation 3:4-5

⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

- B. What would Israel have learned from the Two Birds Ceremony?
 - a. God does the healing

Leviticus 14:1-3

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² **“This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing.** He shall be brought to the priest, ³ and the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall look. Then, if the case of leprous disease is healed in the leprous person...

- b. Outside the camp
- c. What to bring

Leviticus 14:4

[Then] ⁴ the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed **two live clean birds** and cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop.
(Cf. Heb. 9:19-20; Ex. 24:8)

- d. Sprinkled clean

Leviticus 14:5-7

⁵ And the priest shall command them to **kill one** of the birds in an earthenware vessel over **fresh water**. ⁶ He

shall ***take the live bird*** with ***the cedarwood and the scarlet yarn and the hyssop***, and ***dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water***.⁷ And he shall sprinkle it ***seven times*** on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall ***pronounce him clean*** and shall ***let the living bird go into the open field***.

- 1) Meditations of an Israelite
 - a) I was dead
 - b) Bird killed (outside the camp)
[Cpt. 16 - 2 goats?]
 - c) Bird/Cleansed leper washed
 - d) Bird/Cleansed leper free...

Psalm 51:7–11 (King David, Walking Dead Man; Nathan)

⁷ ***Purge me with hyssop***, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

- e) Free to come home...but...

Leviticus 14:8-9

⁸ And he who is to be cleansed shall ***wash his clothes*** and ***shave off all his hair*** and ***bathe himself in water***, and ***he shall be clean***. And after that he may come into the camp, ***but live outside his tent seven days***.⁹ And on the seventh day he shall ***shave off all his hair from his head, his beard, and his eyebrows***. He shall shave off all his hair, and then he shall ***wash his clothes*** and ***bathe his body in water***, ***and he shall be clean***.

- 2) Meditations of a Christian
 - a) Jesus (Death & Resurrection)
 - b. United to His death &
Resurrection

III. The Testimony of the Water & the Blood Outside the Camp!

John 19:33–35

³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out ***blood and water***. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.

1 John 5:6–9

⁶ This is **he who came by water and blood**—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For ***there are three that testify***: ⁸ ***the Spirit and the water and the blood***; and these three agree. ⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, *the testimony of God is greater*, for **this is the testimony of God** that he has borne concerning his Son.

Key Idea

Jesus is the bird that goes “outside the camp” to be sacrificed so that he can lead us into a new life in heaven. His death pays our debt, “sprinkling” us clean and setting us free to ascend into God’s glorious prescience!