

Message #21**Leviticus 12:1-8**

As we come to the twelfth chapter of Leviticus, we come to the shortest chapter in the book and some believe it is also the strongest chapter in the book. This chapter deals with the laws concerning a mother after the birth of a baby and her ability to go to the Tabernacle to worship God. In Leviticus 11 we saw that we are sinners by contact. In Leviticus 12 we see we are sinners by birth (Ps. 51:5).

(Observation #1) - God wanted men and women to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7). This is not a chapter designed to keep people from having children.

(Observation #2) - To be childless in ancient times was considered to be a great misfortune and was even considered to be a terrible judgment of God (Lev. 20:20; Deut. 28:18). Every Jewish woman wanted to have a baby. This passage would not be negating this principle.

(Observation #3) - Being unclean ceremonially is not necessarily the same as being sinful personally. Human sexuality is not sinful or dirty nor is being pregnant and having a baby. Being unclean meant that a woman could not go to the Tabernacle and enter into corporate worship.

(Observation #4) - It was not the birth of a baby that made the woman unclean, the thing that made the woman unclean was the postnatal discharge of blood (Lev. 12:5, 7). God would not allow any blood shed in His tabernacle other than the sacrificial blood that He prescribed.

(Observation #5) - Every baby that is born is born a sinner and needs to be made pure. Whether male or female, every baby is born with a sin nature which was inherited from the parents at the moment of conception (Ps. 51:5). We all received our sin nature from dad and mom.

GOD WILL NOT PERMIT ONE TO ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE UNTIL ONE IS CLEAN ; AND NO BLOOD OTHER THAN THE PRESCRIBED BLOOD OF HIS SACRIFICE WILL MAKE ONE CLEAN, OPENING THE DOOR TO HOLINESS AND WORSHIP.

As wonderful a moment as the birth of a baby is, in order for one to worship God, that baby and that mother had to approach this God's way. Notice carefully **verse 1**—this is instruction coming directly from God.

SECTION #1 – Purification after the birth of a son. **12:2-4**

This ritual was designed, in part, to show the mother she brought a sinner into the world.

(Segment #1) - She could not take her son to be circumcised until the eighth day which gave her a seven day period of uncleanness. **12:2-3**

(Segment #2) - She could not touch any clean thing or enter the sanctuary for another 33 days. **12:4**

SECTION #2 – Purification after the birth of a daughter . **12:5**

One cannot help but notice that the purification days for a girl are double that of a boy. Instead of one week it is two and instead of 33 days it is 66.

- 1) The formation of the embryo is longer for females than males.
- 2) The blood discharges from a woman last longer and have greater toxicity with a girl than a boy.
- 3) The pain of childbirth is a judgment from God on a woman and therefore, the woman who gives birth to a girl doubles the time for purification because another girl has been born.
- 4) A baby girl would eventually be associated with blood herself (eventual menstruation) and, therefore, the purification took longer.
- 5) God gave this as a protection for the mother and baby to keep them somewhat isolated to be free from infection and disease. This was a time before shots were given to babies.
- 6) The normal time for bonding between a mother and son is less time needed than a mother and a daughter.

The truth is we don't know. But this was God's Law. It was His system. If one is to be clean before God, it must be on His terms!

SECTION #3 – Sacrificial offerings after the birth of a boy or girl. **12:6-8**

What immediately stands out is that the sacrifices were identical for either male or female. In other words, one was not more or less valuable than the other. Both boys and girls required the same sacrifice because all boys and girls are sinners.

Now what is absolutely amazing from the story of Joseph, Mary and Jesus is that this law was followed in very specific detail. On the eighth day Jesus was taken to the Temple to be circumcised (Luke 2:21-24). When the days of purification were completed, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the Temple and they brought the only sacrifice they could afford; not a lamb but a couple of birds. Now here is the amazing thing—Jesus Christ could have chosen to be born in any home He wanted. He was God. Not only did Jesus Christ humble Himself to be born of a man, but He chose a home of the most meager of income. He could have been born into a home of privilege and prestige. But he chose a home that was so poor they could not even afford to buy a lamb for sacrifice.

This brings us to our point. Why did He choose to be born anyway? Because all boys and girls are born sinners and only His blood can wash that sin away.

PRACTICAL LESSONS:

- 1. In God's mind there are distinctions in worship between men and women-
I Cor. 14:34-35; I Tim. 2:12.**
- 2. Every boy and girl needs to realize he/she is a sinner and needs to have the blood of
Jesus Christ applied to his/her life so he/she can be clean in God's sight.**
- 3. Parents have a responsibility to show their children they obey God even when their
children are infants.**