

Leviticus 12
The Dis-ease of Spilling Our Life
April 28, 2013
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: The Pain/Joy of Babies
- B. General Point: Be Holy!

Leviticus 11:44a

For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and *be holy, for I am holy.*

- C. Why So Many Distinctions? (Leviticus 10:10)

Key Question: (Last Week)

What is God trying to communicate to his people by these ritual purity laws?

Answer

*Sin has caused a much bigger mess than we realize and neither sin nor its defiling **effects** have any place in God's holy presence.*

... in highlighting the true extent of the defiling effects of sin, God reveals the full extent of the cleansing power of His appointed Savior/King!

- D. Today's Questions:

1. Why did childbirth cause an Israelite woman to be unclean?
2. Why did the purification process take half as long when a male child was born?
3. What is God trying to teach us?

- E. Curse & Dis-Ease have No Place in Heaven

Genesis 3:16–17

¹⁶ **To the woman** he said, "I will surely *multiply your pain in childbearing*; in pain you shall bring forth children. ..."

¹⁷ And **to Adam** he said, "...you shall eat bread, *till you return to the ground*, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

“...the New Testament teaches that when we enter the presence of the LORD in glory, the actual presence of the Holy One of Israel, we shall be made whole, we shall be glorified. There will be no disease, no corruption, no illness, no bodily defects, no births, no unclean thing at all. Why? Because all such things are incompatible with the holiness of the LORD. That is the principle that lies behind the laws of Lev. 12–15.” ¹

II. The Dis-ease of Spilling Our Life

A. Why does childbirth make a woman unclean?

1. Flow of blood defiled her

Leviticus 12:4, 5b, 7b

⁴ Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying.

⁵ ...And she shall continue *in the blood of her purifying* for sixty-six days.

⁷ ...Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood.

“At the time that a mother delivers new life she also loses life in that she loses blood.” ²

B. Why Half as Long for Boys?

1. Blood flow twice as long for girls

2. The promised “seed”

Leviticus 12:1–8

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If a woman *conceives* (i.e. *produced seed*) and bears a *male child*, then she shall be *unclean seven days*. As at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean. ³ And on the *eighth day* the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. ⁴ Then she shall continue for thirty-

¹ Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (274). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

² Eveson, P. H. (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (166). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.

⁵ But if she **bears** a female child, then she shall be **unclean two weeks**, as in her menstruation. And she shall continue in the blood of her purifying for sixty-six days.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between *your offspring (seed)* and *her offspring (seed)*; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Galatians 3:16 (Cf. Genesis 17:6–14)

¹⁶ Now the promises were made to **Abraham** and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to **offsprings (seed)**,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your **offspring (seed)**,” who is Christ. (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:15)

Colossians 2:11–15

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by **the circumcision of Christ**... ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, **nailing it to the cross.**

C. Atonement to Purify

1. Purified from Sin’s Effects (Death)

Leviticus 12:6–7

⁶ “And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a

turtledove for a *sin offering*,⁷ and he shall offer it before the Lord and **make atonement for her**. Then she shall be *clean from the flow of her blood*. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female.

Leviticus 4:31b (Sin/Purification Offering)

...And the priest shall make atonement for him, **and he shall be forgiven**.

2. Purity Available to Everyone (12:6–8)

...if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons...” (Cf. Luke 2:22–24)

III. **What is God Trying to Teach Us?**

- A. Each Child Born is a Reminder of the Curse of **Pain & Death** (Flow of Blood)
- B. Every Birth is a Reminder of **God's Gracious Promised Savior** (Sons, seeds & circumcision)
- C. The Promised Savior has Covered Our Curse!
 1. The Time of Our Purification is Shorter

Romans 13:11

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For **salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed**.

2. Everyone can Afford It! (12:6–8)

Key Idea

How appropriate for God to use the process of childbirth to simultaneously remind us of our current curse of mortality and His gracious gift of a savior, “born of a women”, who will restore us to immortality in Him.