

I. Leprosy signifies the serious sin issuing from within man, such as willful sin, presumptuous sin, and opposing God with determination:

Lev.13:2 When a man has a swelling or an eruption or a bright spot on the skin of his body, and it becomes an infection of leprosy on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. 3...And the priest shall look at the infection in the skin of the body; and if the hair in the infection has turned white and the appearance of the infection is deeper than the skin of his body, it is the infection of leprosy. When the priest has looked at him, he shall pronounce him unclean.

- A) As seen in the cases of Miriam, Gehazi, and Uzziah, leprosy issues from rebellion against God's authority, against God's deputy authority, against God's regulation, and against God's economy.
- B) In the biblical sense, sin is rebellion; thus, leprosy signifies sin.
- C) The first case of sin in the Bible was Satan's rebellion against God; hence, sin as rebellion was invented, inaugurated, by the rebellious archangel Lucifer.
- D) Eventually, this sin, this leprosy, entered into mankind through Adam, and having entered into man, it issues from within man as many kinds of sins, that is, many manifestations of rebellion.
- E) Hence, a leper represents the fallen descendants of Adam, all of whom are lepers; as signs of leprosy, a swelling, eruption, or a bright spot on the skin of one's flesh signifies man's outward expressions in unruliness, in friction with others, and in pride and self-exaltation.
- F) The condition in Leviticus 13:24-25 signifies that a saved person's acting by the flesh, that is, his losing his temper, his justifying himself, and his not being willing to forgive others, is a sign of spiritual leprosy.
Lev.13:24 Or when the flesh has on its skin a burn by fire, and the raw flesh of the burn becomes a bright spot, reddish-white or white,
25 Then the priest shall look at it; and if the hair in the bright spot has turned white, and its appearance is deeper than the skin, it is leprosy. It has broken out in the burn, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is the infection of leprosy.

II. The cleansing of the leper in Leviticus 14 portrays the rich, complete, and extensive salvation God has prepared and accomplished for us in Christ; in this salvation Christ is the all-inclusive One who has passed through a number of processes and is everything we need for our cleansing:

- A) "The priest shall command that two living clean birds and cedar wood and scarlet strands and hyssop be taken for the one who is to be cleansed. And the

priest shall command that one of the birds be slaughtered in an earthen vessel over running water. As for the living bird, he shall take it and the cedar wood and the scarlet strands and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was slaughtered over the running water. And he shall sprinkle it on the one who is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times and shall pronounce him clean. Then he shall let the living bird go into the open field":

① The two living clean birds are types of Christ, who is clean, without any defilement, and full of the life that is able to fly above the earth; the birds here signify that Christ came from the heavens and that He belongs to the heavens and transcends the earth.

② The bird that was killed signifies the crucified Christ, who died for us that our filthiness might be taken away.

③ The second bird, which was let go into the open field, signifies the resurrected Christ, who rose from the dead for us that we might be delivered from our weakness by the power, strength, and energy of His resurrection life—the divine, eternal, uncreated life of God.

④ Cedar wood signifies the honorable and uplifted humanity of Jesus, which enables Him to be our Savior; hyssop, being one of the smallest plants, signifies that the Lord Jesus was willing to become lowly in His "becoming in the likeness of men" that He might be near to man and become man's Savior; scarlet, a dark red color, signifies the shedding of blood and also implies kingship.

⑤ All of this signifies that in order to cleanse us from our leprosy, the Lord lowered Himself to become a man of high standard but of low status that He might do the will of God and shed His blood on the cross for our redemption, thereby being glorified in His resurrection and becoming the honorable and high King.

⑥ The one who had been healed from leprosy still needed to seek to be cleansed before God, signifying that the one who is sick of the sin of leprosy, although he has been healed by the divine life within, still needs to have his shortcomings and defilement dealt with before God that he might be cleansed; our seeking to be cleansed is our cooperation with God's grace and love.

⑦ The earthen vessel signifies the humanity of Jesus, and the living water signifies the living and eternal Spirit of God; the bird being killed in an earthen vessel over living water signifies that through His death in His humanity the Lord Jesus offered Himself to God through the eternal and living Spirit who was within Him.

Heb. 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself

without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

⑧ The things recorded in Leviticus 14:6–7 signify that the Lord’s perfect redemption not only causes man to be cleansed objectively in his position but also causes man to experience subjectively, in the Holy Spirit, the Lord’s suffering in the shedding of His blood in His honorable, uplifted, and yet lowly humanity and to experience His death, resurrection, ascension, and glorification; these things are all implied in the significances of the two birds, the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet strands.

Lev.14:6 As for the living bird, he shall take it and the cedar wood and the scarlet strands and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was slaughtered over the running water. 7 And he shall sprinkle it on the one who is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times and shall pronounce him clean. Then he shall let the living bird go into the open field.

⑨ The sprinkling of the blood of the slain bird on the leper who was to be cleansed signifies that the blood shed by Christ was sprinkled on us, the sinners, and this sprinkling connects us to Christ, the Redeemer; the sprinkling of the blood seven times signifies the completeness of the cleansing of the Lord’s blood.

I John1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

⑩ Christ’s ascension is signified by the living bird soaring in the air; letting the living bird go into the open field signifies that the living Christ causes the cleansed sinner to experience not only Christ’s death and resurrection but also His ascension.

B) The shaving of the hair of the leper for his cleansing signifies dealing with the difficulties of the self, which is the enemy of the Body; the razor signifies the cross: Lev.14:8 And the one who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes and shave off all his hair and bathe in water, and he shall be clean. And after that he may come into the camp, but he shall dwell outside his tent seven days. 9 And on the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair; he shall shave his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair. Then he shall wash his clothes and bathe his flesh in water, and he shall be clean.

① The hair of the head signifies the glory of man; everyone has his boasts in certain areas; some boast of their ancestry, some of their education, some of their virtues, some of their zeal in their love for the Lord; almost everyone can find an area in which to boast, to glorify himself, and to make a display before man.

② The beard signifies the honor of man; people

esteem themselves honorable with regard to their position, their family background, or even their spirituality; they always have a superior feeling that they are above others.

③ The eyebrows signify the beauty of man; we have naturally good and strong points, which did not issue from the experience of God’s salvation but from natural birth.

④ The hair of the whole body signifies the natural strength of man; we are full of natural strength, natural methods and opinions, thinking that we can do this or that for the Lord and that we are capable of doing all things.

⑤ When all the aspects of the self are dealt with through the “razor” of the cross, and when we have nothing and are nothing, we shall be clean.

⑥ We should utterly reject the self by doing everything through the cross and by the Spirit to dispense Christ into one another for the sake of the Body of Christ.

C) The leper’s shaving of his entire body, washing his clothes, and bathing his flesh a second time after waiting and watching seven days (Lev. 14:9) signifies that a sinner who is to be cleansed needs to bear the responsibility for dealing with every part of his natural life and daily walk; this shows that if we deal with our sin and our sinful self seriously, in a definite, thorough, and absolute way, we shall be clean.

III. In Leviticus 14:33–57, the house typifies the church as our real home, and the leprosy in the house signifies the sins and evils in the church; the priest signifies the Lord or His deputy authority, and the examining of the house is not for condemnation but is a grace for healing:

Lev.14:36 And the priest shall command that they empty the house before the priest goes in to look at the infection, so that everything which is in the house does not become unclean; and afterward the priest shall go in to look at the house. 39 And the priest shall return on the seventh day and inspect it. And if the infection has spread in the walls of the house, 40 Then the priest shall command that they take out the stones on which the infection is and throw them away outside the city into an unclean place.

A) The removing of the infected stones after seven days signifies that after the observation of a complete period of time, if the problem of the church is still spreading, the believer or believers involved in the problem should be removed from the fellowship of the church and be considered unclean, like the outsiders; this is done to stop the spread of the disease and to eliminate the disease.

B) Putting other stones in the place of the removed stones signifies using other believers to fill in the gap; the replastering of the house with other

plaster signifies the renewing of the church with new experiences of the Lord's gracious works; this is needed for a new start in the church life.

- C) The breaking down of the house after the infection of leprosy returns signifies that if the situation of the church reaches the point where it cannot be cured, healed, that church should be terminated.
- D) If no sin is spreading after the renewing of the church with the new experiences of the Lord's gracious works, the church is clean and has no problem; the whole church needs to be cleansed with the eternally efficacious blood of Christ and His eternal and living Spirit so that the church is fully clean to be the mutual dwelling of God and man.

Experience①: Deal with anger, self-justification, not forgiving others and be saved from the development of Leprosy

Leprosy comprises both an outside factor and an inward effect. The cause is from the outside, but the effect is inward. Leprosy signifies the serious sin issuing from within man, such as willful sin, presumptuous sin, and opposing God with determination.

Leprosy always comes from rebellion. Miriam rebelled against Moses, who was God's deputy authority. Her rebellion had a cause, and the cause was Moses' marrying a Cushite woman. As the result of her rebellion, Miriam became leprosy.

In 2 Kings 5:20-27 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, rebelled against Elisha's practices. Elisha would not receive anything as a reward from Naaman, a Gentile who was healed of leprosy. After Gehazi received gifts from the cleansed leper, Naaman's leprosy was transferred to him.

King Uzziah rebelled against God's regulation concerning the priesthood. According to this regulation, the king could not participate in the priesthood. But Uzziah rebelled against this regulation, and as a result of his rebellion he became leprosy in each of these three cases, the leprosy first entered into the rebellious one and then issued from within that one.

According to the Old Testament, leprosy is the outcome of a certain cause, and that cause is rebellion against God's authority, against God's deputy authority, against God's regulation, and against God's economy. We all must admit that we have rebelled against God's authority,...against God's regulation, and against God's entire economy....In God's eyes we all became leprosy.

Leprosy is sin....The first case of sin was Satan's rebellion....Before Satan's rebellion there was not such a thing as sin. Sin was invented, not created, by the rebellious archangel Lucifer.

For Junior & Senior High School Students

Leprosy signifies the serious sin issuing from within man, such as willful sin, presumptuous sin, and opposing God with determination. Because sin dwells within the degraded man, the nature of the leprosy is within man.

Miriam rebelled against Moses due to her rivalry and became leprosy. So the development of leprosy comes from both the outward environment and the inward nature of leprosy.

As a junior high / high school student, you need to take heed not to develop leprosy. Losing your temper, justifying yourself and not forgiving others are the sign of the spiritual leprosy.

[Eph. 4:26 Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation, 27 Neither give place to the devil.](#)

Anger: Do not remain in your anger. If you do so, you will let the devil take part and more probable to develop leprosy.

Justifying yourself: And do not reject others fellowship and feelings by only justifying yourself. Our humanity is not well balanced and in many cases your feeling is biased. The person who justify himself tends to reject to be adjusted by others. If you remain in justifying yourself, it will be probable to develop leprosy.

[Eph. 4:31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.](#)

Not forgiving others: Moreover, train yourself to forgive and receive the person who offended you. God forgave you in Christ. Thank God. You should take Lord's grace to forgive and receive the person who offended you.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, within me dwells the terrible sinful nature of leprosy. I do have these signs of "losing temper", "justifying myself" and "not forgiving others". This shows that my fleshy being is leprosy. If I walk according to my flesh, I would develop leprosy and lead the terrible situation. In the practical matters in my school life and family life, save me from rebelling against my teachers and parents. I train my spirit to confess my sins and forgive others. Save me from the terrible situation of developing leprosy.

Experience②: Deal with the inward nature of leprosy, live a Going Up business life for the testimony of the Lord.

In the Bible each of the different kinds of hair has its own significance. The hair of the head signifies the glory of man, the beard represents the honor of man, the eyebrows speak of the beauty of man, and the hair of the whole body denotes the natural strength of man.

Everyone has his boasts in certain areas. Some boast of their ancestry, some of their education, some of their virtues, some of their zeal in their love for the Lord. Almost everyone can find an area in which to boast, to glorify himself, and to make a display before man. This is typified by the hair of the head.

Moreover, people esteem themselves honorable with regard to their position, their family background, or even their spirituality; they always have a superior feeling that they are above others. This is their beard.

At the same time, men also have some natural beauty,

that is, some naturally good and strong points, which did not issue from the experience of God's salvation but from natural birth. This is the eyebrows of man.

Finally, as human beings, we are full of natural strength, natural methods and opinions, thinking that we can do this or that for the Lord and that we are capable of doing all things. This means that we still have very long hair all over our body; we have not been shaved.

All these are not outward contaminations but problems of our natural birth. The outward contaminations need only to be washed with water; however, our own natural problems must be shaved with a razor, which means that they must be dealt with by the cross. This kind of dealing is deep and severe, hurting us within and causing us much pain.

[Lev. 14:40](#) Then the priest shall command that they take out the stones on which the infection is and throw them away outside the city into an unclean place. [41](#) And he shall have the house scraped inside all around, and they shall dump the plaster that they scrape off outside the city into an unclean place. [42](#) And they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones, and he shall take other plaster and replaster the house.

The replastering of the house with other plaster signifies the renewing of the church with new experiences of the Lord's gracious works. This is needed for a new start in the church life.

We need to have a new start in the church life, that is, to renew the church with new experiences of the Lord's gracious works... [by] bringing in the riches of Christ in a new way. If we... simply do something in a legal way to remove certain persons and replace them with others, this will make the church empty, and in this emptiness the church will suffer even more. Therefore, the leading ones need to pray perhaps with fasting that the church will receive something new in the experience of Christ's gracious works. Then the church life will be renewed, replastered with new mortar, and all the members will be happy about the renewed church life.

For Working Young Saints

As a business person, you need to work diligently with the Lord, and if you are led by the Lord, advance in your career for the testimony of the Lord. But you need to deal with negative things like hidden arrogance, individualism, and the love for money in you. Otherwise you will become a person with leprosy full of arrogance.

[1 Tim. 6:10](#) For the love of money is a root of all evils, because of which some, aspiring after money, have been led away from the faith and pierced themselves through with many pains.

On the other hand, the Christ in you is the resurrected and ascended one, as a Christian you should live a Going Up life. When you are living a Going Up business life in

the Lord, with the Lord, and for the Lord, the Lord will expose the hidden arrogance and pride in you.

Some boast of their education, others boast of their own family lineage, business success and achievements, and some boast of their beauty in appearance, or of their natural virtues.

[1 John 1:7](#) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

[8](#) If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9](#) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You need to ask the Lord to expose the nature of the leprosy hiding in your heart and confess all the sins one by one that were exposed before the Lord. By doing this, the Going Up life you have with the Lord can be recovered.

In addition, not only you need to deal with the sin of leprosy but you may also need to deal with the person with leprosy. At that time, you do not deal with the person with leprosy lawfully, go before the Lord, fast and pray, fellowship with your spiritual partner and deal with it. If possible, you should hope the person with leprosy may repent and be cleansed. Of course, to be cleansed, they themselves need to ask to be cleansed.

Prayer: Oh, Lord Jesus, I want to have a business life of Going up with the Lord for the testimony of you. At the same time, I must be wary of the nature of leprosy in my own flesh. Otherwise, I may switch to the Going Up of lust and money loving without knowing. Lord, please shine the light on me inwardly. I shall confess each sin that was shone under Your light. Lord, I confess my arrogance, superiority, and pride. I do not live according to the flesh, but I want to live according to the spirit. Amen!

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① Lord, may Thy blood now cleanse me, Wash all my sins away,
That with Thy Holy Spirit Thou may anoint, I pray.

My service, I confess, Lord, Is failure—full and weak;
The filling of Thy Spirit To live for Thee I seek.

C) Oh, from myself deliver, From all its misery;
I'd henceforth be forever Completely filled with Thee.

② Oh, Lord, how dry my heart is, It yearns and pants for Thee;
The filling of Thy Spirit Is now my fervent plea.

Within the smitten Rock, Lord, I would entirely hide;
Pour thru Thy living water, Till I am satisfied.

③ How cold my heart has been, Lord, How slow obeying Thee;
So fill me with Thy Spirit, I'll ne'er rebellious be.

I lie upon Thy altar And dare not move away;
Oh, may Thy flame descending Consume my all, I pray.

④ Oh, may Thy Cross within me Deepen its work and burn,
In me enlarge Thy measure, And me to ashes turn.

Oh, may Thy Spirit fill me Each day more than before,
And may Thy living water On me and thru me pour.