

Mon.  
**24**  
March

### Verse to Learn

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;  
the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
*Psalm 19:9*



#### reading



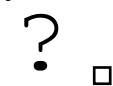
#### notes



Leviticus 14:1-57 - Cleansing The Diseased

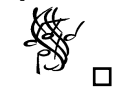
The cleansing ritual begins with the priest going outside the camp. The leper can not come to him, he must go to them. The leprous person is considered to be in a state of living death. This reminds us that when we are dead in our sins, Christ comes to us - we cannot go to Him. The two clean birds are the substitute for the leper. One is killed, so that its blood can be applied to the leper for cleansing. The other bird, after being dipped in the blood of the first bird, is allowed to fly away as a symbol of the uncleanness being carried away forever. The bird that is killed represents Christ who gives His life for ours, and His blood makes us clean. The blood of the bird is mingled with water, and water symbolises cleansing and the Holy Spirit. Unless the Holy Spirit changes our heart, the blood of Christ can not be applied to us. We can't have the blood without the water. The bird that flies away reminds us that after His death, Christ rises from the dead and ascends to Heaven, showing that salvation has been accomplished. There are other symbols here, such as being washed and shaved as though you are a baby emphasising that the leper is born again. There are the 7 days of waiting before the 8th day when the leper is completely cleansed and welcomed into the people of God. Some compare this to the process of growing as Christians that takes place our whole lives before we are perfected in Heaven. There are the sacrifices that are necessary before one can be part of the people of God, pointing to Christ the ultimate sacrifice. There is the evidence that all creation is affected by sin in the fact that houses can be contaminated, but there is also the promise of cleansing, even of new creation, which points to the new heavens and the new earth.

#### questions



1. What do the two birds represent?
2. What does the water represent?
3. What do the sacrifices represent?

#### praise



Ps. 97:all

#### prayers



1. Give thanks for the work of Christ and His grace to us.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Margaret Gilchrist.
4. Pray for family matters.

Sat.  
**29**  
March

### Verse to Learn

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;  
the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
*Psalm 19:9*



#### reading



#### notes



Leviticus 19:1-37 - Holiness

In calling Israel to be holy as God is holy the implication is that, as God is different from His creation, so God's holy, set-apart nation should be different from all the other nations. God's laws that are given here for the people to observe express the kind of holy God He is and provide concrete examples of what holiness means when it is applied to people living in this world. It becomes clear that holiness cannot be separated from ethics.

By keeping God's laws Israel will not only be imitating a God very different from the gods of the surrounding nations, but they will be expressing something of the holy character of God which they themselves have experienced. For instance, their attitude toward the strangers living amongst them is to be similar to God's compassionate love towards them when they were strangers living in Egypt.

This collection of laws covers all areas of life, both public and private. It concerns attitudes towards God, the family and various members of society, from the poor and vulnerable to the immigrant and the aged. The law deals with a person's thoughts and words as well as actions. Holiness is expressed in obedience to parents, respect for the elderly, care of the needy, speaking the truth, justice in court and in business dealings, separation from paganism and sincere devotion to God.

In a sense this chapter reflects all of Leviticus. God is the one who makes His people holy. He is the one that tells them how to live in His Word. Those whom God sets apart are to live obediently because God is their redeemer and God is their Lord. They are to be holy as God is holy.

#### questions



1. What are these laws calling the people to do?
2. How do these laws show love to others?
3. What part of our life does God's Word apply to?

#### praise



Ps. 102:1-10

#### prayers



1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow; that sinners would be converted and Christians grow in their faith.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for John, Lorna, and Heather McIndoe.
4. Pray for family matters.

Fri.  
28  
March

### Verse to Learn

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;  
the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
*Psalm 19:9*



### reading



Leviticus 18:1-30 - Purity

In this chapter we are moving from the mostly ceremonial laws, fulfilled in Christ, to mostly moral laws, laying out how the people of God are to live. Several times it is repeated that the Israelites are not to behave like the nations who inhabited Canaan before them. Israel's sexual morality is here portrayed as something that sets Israel off from its neighbours as the Lord's special people. This hasn't changed for Christians today. Our purity should set us apart as different from the world around us. From this chapter we see that God places a high value on holiness, purity and chastity between men and women. He also places a high value on the family. God is unchanging, and the things He valued then He values now.

The first laws define the limits within which a man may seek his wife. Incest is forbidden, and we see that a man and woman become one flesh in marriage, and so her relatives become his relatives. Next comes a law relating again to the life being in the blood. Then adultery is forbidden, reminding us that sexual activity is for marriage only. Adultery violates the marriage relationship and attacks one of the fundamental structures in society - the family. Human sacrifices of children to the god Molech is forbidden, and before you think that this is no longer a problem, ask yourself how many children are sacrificed through abortion to the gods of selfishness and convenience. Homosexuality is called an abomination. Abomination means to hate or abhor - it is something detestable and hated by God. Finally, bestiality is forbidden - again, it is an attack upon the family and the distinction God has made between men and animals. God makes it clear in the final verses that sin pollutes the land and destroys those who live there, and the day will come when God will deal with it.

### questions



1. What does God value?
2. How should we be different from the world around us?

### praise



Ps. 101:all

### prayers



1. Pray for our covenant children, that they would grow in the Lord.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Graeme, Kim, David, and Louise McCulloch.
4. Pray for family matters.

Tue.  
25  
March

### Verse to Learn

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;  
the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
*Psalm 19:9*



### reading



Leviticus 15:1-33 - Original Sin

When our first parents sin, a death penalty is pronounced against them. This death affects their whole being, spiritual and physical. But there is more - the curse of death affects the propagation of the race. Not only is the process of childbirth cursed with pain and suffering, but Adam, as the representative of the human race, passes this curse on to his offspring. Adam can not reproduce a child like himself before the fall, but he can only reproduce sinners. By drawing attention to the uncleanness of reproduction, the laws of Leviticus 15 emphasise that in the very procreation of life, there is sin. Sinners can only produce sinners. None of us are born neutral. Before we are sinners in action, we are sinners in nature. These laws show the Israelites that in their very nature, as children of Adam, they are sinners and unclean, and all their children after them will be sinners and unclean. Sin is not only what we do, but who we are.

In Mark 5:24-34 a woman who has suffered from bleeding for 12 years comes up behind Jesus and touches Him to be healed. According to the law, her touch should defile Jesus, but she believes that not only will she not defile Him, but that His healing power will cure her. Wonderfully, Jesus reassures her, Your faith has made you well; go in peace. Jesus often touches people whose physical condition makes them unclean, people like lepers and the dead. His actions show that with His coming a new age has dawned in God's dealings with men. In Christ, God has drawn near to men and is calling sinners to repentance. The Levitical laws tend to separate men from God. Jesus shows by His actions that anyone who repents can be accepted by God. The kingdom of God is now open to all believers through the cleansing of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Christ.

### questions



1. Why are we born sinners?
2. What is the significance of Jesus touching the unclean?

### praise



Ps. 98:all

### prayers



1. Give thanks for the forgiveness of sins found in Christ.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Dick and Susan Knodel.
4. Pray for family matters.

Wed.  
26  
March

### Verse to Learn

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;  
the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
*Psalm 19:9*



#### reading



Leviticus 16:1-34 - The Gospel in the Day of Atonement

If every Old Testament in one way or another points to Christ, this one does so in the fullest and brightest sense. On the annual Day of Atonement the removal of all sin, essential to a life of peace and fellowship with God, is expressed. There are many sins never covered by the daily sacrifices. So this Day is necessary to atone for sin in the fullest sense and to make possible God's continued presence among His people. This reminds the Israelites that the sacrificial system is not enough, even the Day of Atonement is not enough, but must be done once a year. But in Christ there is a final Day of Atonement, a complete sacrifice, once for all.

Only the high priest can enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year on this Day. This is where the mercy seat is on the top of the ark of the covenant. It is symbolic of where God dwells amongst His people. The high priest can only come through the blood of a sacrifice for sin. Christ is the perfect, sinless high priest who comes before God on our behalf with His own blood. Aaron has to lay aside his garments of splendour and clothe himself in simple linen before he offers the sacrifice; Christ lays aside His glory and becomes a man. Aaron reappears before the people in splendour; and Christ will return in glory.

Christ is also the sacrifice, the lamb slain as the sin offering. He is the scapegoat, the one who bears our sins away, so that they are remembered no more. Christ on the cross achieves what the high priests attempt to do on the Day of Atonement. At the moment of His death, the veil of the Temple is torn in two - the veil that separates the people from the Holy of Holies. Now every man and woman who is in Christ has the right, once reserved for the high priest, to enter into the presence of God at any time.

#### questions



1. How is Christ like the high priest?
2. How is Christ like the sacrifice?

#### praise



Ps. 99:all

#### prayers



1. Give thanks that Christ is our perfect High Priest.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Megan McAleese.
4. Pray for family matters.

Thur.  
27  
March

### Verse to Learn

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;  
the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
*Psalm 19:9*



#### reading



Leviticus 17:1-16 - Holiness in Eating

The first thing this chapter teaches is that no domestic animals are to be killed outside the tabernacle. If an Israelite wants to eat meat, he needs to bring his chosen animal to the tabernacle as a peace offering. Breaking this law is as serious as murder, and the guilty man will be punished by God directly. The reason for this law is the ever present threat of idolatry. Surrounded by idolatry in Egypt, the Israelites find it a constant temptation to worship other gods. This law makes it that bit harder for them to practice idolatry secretly. Now this law isn't as hard to keep as we might first think. Meat is a luxury, not an everyday occurrence, and at this time everyone lives close to the sanctuary. After the settlement in Canaan, the law changes (Deuteronomy 12). The Israelites are also not to offer sacrifices outside of the tabernacle. Again, this is to prevent idolatry. How does this apply to us today? Well, we may not worship gold or silver statues, but we all have things in our life that we are in danger of putting before God, even good things, things that are blessings from God. Like the Israelites, if we just bring everything we do in regards to these things before the Lord in prayer, it will help keep us from turning them into idols.

The blood of animals can not be eaten. It represents life, and to eat it shows that that life is being despised. But even more importantly, blood is the means God has provided for paying for sin - it belongs to Him and not to the Israelite. All we have and are we owe to the blood of Jesus Christ which has purchased for us even the most ordinary blessings. So even in giving thanks for our meals, we can, like the Israelite, remember the blood that has brought us this blessing.

#### questions



1. Why must domestic animals be killed outside the tabernacle?
2. Why could the Israelites not eat blood?
3. How can we avoid making idols of things?

#### praise



Ps. 100:all

#### prayers



1. Give thanks for what God has given you today.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Susan and Bobbi McBirney.
4. Pray for family matters.