

b. The Laws of Motherhood..Leviticus 12

Life is very important in Israel and this is a chapter of practical legal instruction that protected mother and child.

- The birth of a man child is followed by a period of seven days separation, a day for the circumcision of the child, and thirty three days for purification. This period of time allows the mother to recover strength from the birth and to enter into the regular cycles of life before any further conception may be entertained or the woman used sexually or put back into the normal thrust of life.
- The birth of a female allows a mother fifty days of purification. I do not understand the difference although a number of ideas are found in the commentaries.
- But the sacrifice for her cleansing is the same for both sexes of children (vs. 6, 8). Her uncleanness is not a matter of sin but the letting of blood.
- Women are given a high place in the Biblical faith and this interesting legal aspect shows God's care for them in this delicate part of life.
- Note vs. 3 for the circumcision of a son on the 8th day. The Lord will later remind the hypocritical religious leaders of His day that this work was not a violation of the law, consequently the healing of those with special needs also did not violate the Sabbath.

c. The Leprosy laws Leviticus 13-14

There are many varieties of leprosy and when one is going to elaborate on this in preaching, one does well to study the subject fully. These chapters need a careful reading and, unfortunately, I am just scanning them. The breakdown goes like this:

(1) Determination of the Disease Leviticus 13

The chapter discusses a number of situations in which leprosy may appear.

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| vs. 2, a "scab" | determination vs. 3 |
| vs. 9, lesions | determination vs. 11 |
| vs. 18, a "boil" | determination vs. 22 |

This general practice continues in several other areas. But note that there is a period of examination, sometimes a period of observation, and a declaration of the priest on the nature of the occurrence. There is no self-cure, no self-pronouncement. The office of the priest stands as the mark of God's control and blessing. The openness of the findings and the taking of the appropriate action is very important.