

# An Unclean Mother

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

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Leviticus 12:1-8 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days. And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

- I. This chapter continues in the same thread dealing with uncleanness.
  - A. The previous chapter called out the distinctions between clean and unclean animals, forbidding the eating of the unclean and sanctifying the eating of the clean.
  - B. The character, habits, and lifestyle of the unclean creatures are generally consistent with the character, habits, and lifestyle of sinful people.
  - C. The whole thing was to make a difference between clean and unclean; to draw a line and establish a law of living by which men could be continually reminded that there is good and evil, a right way and a wrong way to live, and that he would be encouraged to follow the good, clean way, instead of the unclean and evil way.
  - D. Now this chapter is dealing with childbirth and it still dealing with the same subject of clean and unclean.
  
- II. The absolute faith that men almost universally have in the doctrine of original sin has blinded them to the truths God was trying to teach here.
  - A. I cannot find a commentator that does not fall back on this doctrine here and therefore has nothing to say or no way to explain the meaning of these 8 verses of Scripture.
  - B. Without exception they simply say that this is dealing with the fact that we are all born in sin and therefore all this uncleanness, separation, and offerings.
    1. This is in spite of the fact that the child is never spoken of as unclean – only the mother.
    2. The child does not have to be separated or be unclean for so many days or weeks, neither is he, or his parents responsible to make any offering for his sin – this is because he has none and he is not unclean.
  - C. The uncleanness of the mother is not primarily about the uncleanness that is a result of the birth.
    1. It is more to do with her soul and the fact that she has been a sinner and has now been given the responsibility of a new life to care for and make a

man or a woman out of in a sinful world, to which she has fallen prey herself.

- D. The chapters that follow deal with issues and leprosy, and how these things defile others.
1. Any issue from our body is pollution to someone else.
  2. If it touches them they are unclean, and something must be done about it for them to be clean again.
  3. Blood is a more serious issue than other things, and requires more time to be cleansed from, but no matter what the issue might be, it defiles and pollutes someone else.
- III. The only life that has affected or touched this child at the time of its birth is its mother's.
- A. Her blood has gotten all over him, and other issues from her body.
- B. The blood is the life of every living creature.
- C. The things spoken of here are ceremonial laws that represent spiritual truths, and are meant to help us understand how to walk in God's ways.
- D. The 7 days of uncleanness the mother has to go through after she has a male child is time for her to consider her uncleanness of heart, mind, and soul, and petition God for help in seeing her own faults and sins, and for wisdom to raise a child in a sinful world.
1. When a person was unclean they were separated from everyone else.
  2. This gave her the solitude she needed to nurse her child and think about her uncleanness, her inability to face the task before her without God's help, and to thoroughly purify her heart before God.
- E. After the 7 days of her uncleanness the male child was circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.
1. This is a cutting off of the flesh at the source of the seed.
  2. It was the token of the covenant God made with Abraham concerning his seed.
  3. It signifies the desire of God that the seed of Abraham would live for God and be a holy nation in this wicked world.
- F. Then this new mother has 33 more days to be with her circumcised little boy to nurse him and pray for him before she is allowed to go back in the house of God to make her offerings.
1. She has this time to consider the fact that just as her life is the only one that has touched him so far, her life will have more effect on him than any other for the next several years, and to a lesser degree the rest of his life.
- G. The offerings she makes are for herself – not for the child.
1. She makes a sin offering and a burnt offering.
  2. One for the Atonement of her sin, and the other as a vow of consecration to live for God before this child she has just been given.
- IV. The time of uncleanness and purifying are double for the mother if she has a female child.
- A. None of the commentators have any explanation for this- they simply say that have no idea why except that this is the way God wanted it.
- B. Maybe it is because the character and disposition of the mother is so much more important when she is raising a girl.
- C. She will have this man-child for a few years and then, under normal circumstances, he will join the company of his father and other men.
1. But the girl child will always be with her mother until she marries.

D. This being the case, she is inevitably going to be more like her mother.

Ezekiel 16:44-45 Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter. Thou art thy mother's daughter, that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite.

E. In God's wisdom this new mother needs twice as long to think about her own character, standing with God, attitude toward her husband, and her attitude toward other men, and very much about what kind of example she is going to be with this little female who will one day be a woman like herself.

F. Also, it could be that little girls are in twice as much danger of being deceived and defiled by the devil, this world, and other people, and will therefore need much more attention and a strong, consistent example of what a virtuous woman really is.

V. So all that is spoken of in this chapter is not really about how sin is transmitted to our children through procreation and childbirth, but about a mother taking seriously the charge she has been given when she bears a child.

A. All this is meant to cause her to look inward at her own heart and life and search out those things which are selfish, childish, and sinful.

B. She has the same length of time to search out her own heart as Moses did on the mountain, and as Jesus did in the wilderness – 40 days, and twice that long for a girl child.

C. God's way is good and right, and it would do us much good to consider all this and apply it to the way we deal with a new baby now.