

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Thirteen

The Leper

A leper is someone who has the disease of leprosy. The word, leper, appears in the Old Testament exactly **thirteen** times. The first time is in the **thirteenth** chapter of the book of Leviticus: 45 "And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. 46 All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be."

The disease of leprosy was a curse that had many parallels to the curse of sin. Like sin, leprosy was pervasive and invasive. Like sin, leprosy invaded the whole body over time and pervaded to the destruction of the body. There was and still is no known cure for leprosy. Leprosy was a plague of the flesh and rendered the leper unclean. Likewise, sin is a plague of the flesh and renders the sinner unclean in the eyes of God. In the Old Testament, we read about leprosy being found in houses and in garments. Sin began in Adam and spread through the whole household of Adam and thus is a plague upon the whole human race. In the eyes of a just and holy God our garments are filthy because of sin.

To be cleansed of leprosy, an animal sacrifice had to be made for the leper. To be cleansed of sin the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God had to be made at the tree of the cross in order that we may be made clean before God. Jesus atoning sacrifice on the tree of the cross cleansed the whole household of God and gave all of them clean garments of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, was made to be a curse for us that we might be redeemed from the curse of sin:

1. Gal. 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

2. Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

3. 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."