

Metzarah Leviticus-Vayikra (14:1-15.33)

God has brought the Hebrews out of bondage in Egypt to be a holy people to God. There are new responsibilities as God's people. Individuals are to bring offerings to God's Sanctuary, observe God's festivals and eat only what is kosher and permitted by God.

God then explains to Moses about what to do when someone has a skin rash or burn or any kind of skin discoloration which could be a very contagious disease. A priest must examine the skin closely and then announce "Clean or unclean." Anyone unclean must live outside the camp. The priests will monitor the skin until it is better.

God said to Moses, "When a priest announces a person's skin has healed, there is a specific way to acknowledge being clean and pure enough to return to camp. The person will bring two live birds. The priest is to kill one with a specific ritual and set the other bird free in open country.

Afterwards, the healed, ritually clean person, must wash all clothes, shave off all hair, and take a good bath. The person can then enter camp but must stay outside his or her tent for seven days. On the seventh day, after shaving, scrubbing clothes and washing all over again, the person shall be confirmed as clean.

On the eighth day, the healed person will go to the God's Sanctuary and at its entrance will present the priest two unblemished lambs and flour and oil for offerings to God. With these, God and the priest shall then make atonement with wave offerings, sin offerings, burnt offerings and guilt offerings for the person who had been sick. Now the person is pure as well as clean.

Then God said to Moses and Aaron, "When you enter the land of promised land of Canaan and I inflict leprosy in a house, the owner of the house shall come and tell the priest. When the priest examines the home, if it is unclean, the house must be torn down and its materials taken outside the city. The house can then be rebuilt with clean materials. Afterwards, the priest will then return to the rebuilt house and make special offerings, so the house becomes clean and pure."

The Lord then told Moses and Aaron about the laws after a man or a woman emits different body fluids. After a time of being ritually unclean, a man or a woman can become clean and pure through specific offerings and immersion in natural waters.

Questions: 1) How would you feel about being declared unclean and made to live outside camp?
2) After being sick, how do you make note of being healed? 3) When have you been healed?

Illustration Ideas: the priest examining a person for skin disease, sick people outside of camp, a sick person healed from skin disease...a healed person becoming clean...a house becoming clean....