

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, August 20th – Leviticus 11:1-23

Today we will focus on the concepts of “clean” and “unclean.” Notice as we begin that it is God who sets the standard, not Moses or Aaron. There are a couple of things happening here. First, God is concerned about the health of the Israelites. And so these food restrictions, when followed would keep them healthy. But there is also the teaching part which is setting Israel apart from other tribes and kingdoms that surround them, as well as teaching the Israelites the need for obedience to God. Remember, they have been obedient to Egypt for a long time. God is not Pharaoh, as we have already learned. So, God is instituting food rules that will maintain health, set the people apart from those living around them and continue working Egypt out of Israel. Let’s begin then by reading verses 1-8. Which animals are acceptable, and which are not? Consider the three reasons above. Why do you think these are the guidelines? (Consider what could make them sick if not cooked properly.) Now read verses 9-12. This contains the seafood list. What do you remember from the sermon about the various seafood items? Why are shellfish and other such fish forbidden? Now read 13-19. What birds are acceptable, and which are not? Why would you not want to eat a Vulture? We finish off with verses 20-23. We don’t usually think about eating insects, but if it came down to it, which ones does God say are edible (vs. 22)? If we go to Middle Eastern and Eastern cultures, you would find these insects as part of their daily diet. Now read this passage. Compare this now with Acts 10:9-21. What does God do in this text regarding food laws? Why does this happen? What does this reveal about God? What do we learn about ourselves? How does this point to the work of Jesus?

Tuesday, August 21st – Leviticus 11:24-47

Today we will look at circumstances that make you unclean. First remember that it is thought that we start in a clean state, and also that this is not about sin. In these cases, sin only occurs when you intentionally do what is forbidden. But in most of these circumstances, it comes down to “someone has to clean it/move it/get rid of it,” so it is not sin, but will make you unclean. Again, we must also remember that these restrictions are to prevent parasites from entering the camp and making people ill. Verses 24-25 give the basic information of what constitutes becoming “ceremonially” unclean. What is the fix and how long will you be unclean? Now let’s read which animals will make us ceremonially unclean. Read verses 26-31. Which animal carcass’ make you unclean? What is the remedy? But what if the animal dies and falls into or onto something? Read verses 32-35. We actually still practice this today. If you find weevils in your flour do you not throw it away? Or if a lizard dies and falls on your meat before you grill it, wouldn’t you throw it away? What are the exceptions to this rule (vss. 36-38)? Why would it matter if the seed is wet that makes it defiled? Back to the restrictions. What else is addressed as making someone unclean (vss. 39-43)? Now you may be asking yourself why all these rules and we see the reason why in verses 44-47. What do these reasons reveal to us about God? What does this teach us about ourselves? How does this point to Jesus and his work on the cross? Notice also that in many of these cases we would do these steps naturally as a normal course of action. So, while we don’t see these things as “laws of clean and unclean” we do see the benefit of sanitary practices.

Wednesday, August 22nd – Leviticus 12

Today we turn to the purification rights of a woman who bore a child. Read all 8 verses. It is important to note that this is not about being sinful, but more about protection of the mother and child. Remember blood is considered the life of any creature. Childbirth is a messy matter, with body fluids and blood, and of course, there is a recovery time. These restrictions allow the mother to care for herself and give her the necessary time to recover, as well as allow the baby protection from well-meaning folks who may bring infections into the home. And just as doctors tell women today, “no sex for six weeks” God is giving the same instructions thousands of years earlier. There seems to be no clear explanation of why the birth of a girl requires a longer recovery, but some scholars believe that it is cultural, in that boys were favored over girls. This way, the mother would be allowed a longer time to bond with her daughter. What does this reveal to you about God and his view of childbearing, motherhood and family life? What does this tell us about ourselves and our need for time and recovery? How does this point to Jesus, Joseph and Mary and their experiences?

Thursday, August 23rd – Leviticus 13:1-28

Disease unchecked could lead to an epidemic throughout Israel, killing many. Today and tomorrow we will be looking at the various situations, the determinations and the outcomes. The verses today will deal with skin disease. As you read verses 1-6, what is the determining factor about the skin disease that would determine a person clean or ceremonially unclean? Remember, this is not about being unclean (sinful), but rather about not contaminating (unclean touching clean) in the community. What will determine for sure that someone has a serious skin disease (vss. 7-8)? Who gets to decide whether someone with skin problems are clean or unclean (vs. 9)? Now read verses 12-17. What is defined as clean and unclean? Why if the whole person’s body is white it is okay (think pigmentation)? So, what then is the sign there is a bigger problem? What is the next skin problem addressed and what determines if someone is clean or unclean (vss. 18-23)? What is the final skin issue dealt with in this text (vss. 24-28)? Many of these things we have today, but we have the medical capability to prevent the skin issues from spreading to others. What does this reveal about God’s care for one sick and the rest of the community? What does it reveal about God’s understanding of our anatomy? What does this reveal about us? How does this point to Jesus as the Great Physician? Consider all those with skin issues that Jesus healed.

Friday, August 24th – Leviticus 13:29-59

Continuing today with skin issues, we see that even scabs are looked at. What is our first situation today (vss. 29-37)? What determines if the person is clean or unclean? What happens if things change? If it does not spread, what is the outcome? Now read verses 39-44. What are the two issues at hand? What is the determination of a harmless skin rash (vs 39)? What about bald men? When are they just bald and when is there a skin disease involved? Because skin diseases could become epidemic rather quickly, those determined to have skin diseases were given very difficult instructions. What were they (vss. 44-45)? We see this is the case in the New Testament, where lepers lived and sought to be healed by Jesus. As we continue, we shift to looking at objects (clothing) that could lead to health issues, including skin disease. Read verses 46-59. While the term is leprous disease, in this case it may be mold or other such fabric irritant. Just as leprosy spreads on skin, so mold spreads on cloth or other items. But no one is quite sure exactly what is meant by leprous disease in materials. What determines if the cloth is clean or unclean? If unclean what is the course of action to prevent spread to other objects and contamination to humans (vss. 52 & 55)? What do you learn about God and his rules from this? What do you learn about humanity? How does Jesus make us clean?

Saturday, August 25th – To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read Leviticus 16:15-22.