

Child Birth and Purification

Leviticus Chapter 12

Lev 12:1 **1) Unclean After Child Birth - Male** vs 1-4

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 12:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When a woman gives birth and bears a male {child,} then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean.

- This uncleanliness is not a moral uncleanliness. It is being ceremonially unclean. It is not sin to have children. God commands and blesses a couple to have children.
 - Genesis 1:28 " God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.""
 - Psalm 127:3 " Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward."
 - Psalm 128:3 " Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, Your children like olive plants around your table."
- Yet there is a sin nature in the new born child
 - Psalm 51:5 David said, " Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."
 - Romans 5:12 " Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"
 - Romans 5:19 " For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners"
- And what if a child dies? There is what people refer to as the age of accountability. A child, though a born a sinner has not developed an awareness of their sin. God in his wonderful grace has a grace for them.
What age is that? When they become aware of their sin.
 - Matthew 18:10 + 11 " See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."
 - Mark 10:14 "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God"
 - Romans 7:9 " I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died"
 - 2 Samuel 12:21-23 " His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."
 - 1 Timothy 2:3-4 "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"

Lev 12:3 'On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

- On the eighth day vitamin "K" (*Phylloquinone*) is produced which helps in blood clotting. God has designed a child to accept circumcision on the eighth day. (today doctors inject vitamin K right away so they can be circumcised immediately)
- Luke 2:21 mentions the 8th day after the birth of Jesus. "And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was {then} called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb."
- There are 33 days between Luke 2:21 and Luke 2:22

Lev 12:4 Then she shall remain in the blood of {her} purification for thirty-three days; she shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are completed.

- Mom is unclean for 7 days. On the 8th day she brings the child to the priest to be circumcised. After that, if she had a male child, she would need to remain isolated for 33 more days. A total of 40 Days.

- One commentator suggest that not only is this for purification but shows the kindness of God giving the new mother time to rest, recoup and bond with her child.
- Luke Chapter 1, Elizabeth brought John the Baptist to be circumcised. She isn't allowed in the sanctuary yet we see that she is announcing his name to the priest. Was circumcision done outside the sanctuary?

Lev 12:5 **2) Unclean After Child Birth - Female** vs 5

'But if she bears a female {child,} then she shall be unclean for two weeks, as in her menstruation; and she shall remain in the blood of {her} purification for sixty-six days.

- Mom is unclean for 14 days. Twice as long for a little girl then a little boy.
- The days of purification is 66 days (plus the 14) total is 80 Days.
- The Scripture doesn't explain this. The following are some possibilities:
 - Girls born smaller. Allows more time for strengthening of child
 - Boys were more desired, therefore presentation to others allowed earlier.
 - Girls are allowed a greater bonding time with mother since Boys are honored more.

Lev 12:6 **3) Purification Rite after Child Birth** vs 6-8

'When the days of her purification are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering.

Lev 12:7 'Then he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her, and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears {a child, whether} a male or a female.

- Again this is a ritual uncleanliness. Not a moral sin.
- This again is symbolic of the sin nature in which the child is born into.

Lev 12:8 'But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.' "

- Once again we see that God shows compassion for the poor. He allows a modification in the Burnt Offering and the Sin Offering.
- Luke 2:22-24 " *And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY {firstborn} MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."*
- Interesting that Mary and Joseph brought the poor person's option for the offerings. This tells us that Jesus was born into a poor man's home.

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