

# Normal and Abnormal Issues

## Leviticus Chapter 15

Are you uncomfortable with this chapter? Menstrual Periods and Seminal Emissions

Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

God knew what He was doing when He gave us chapter 15. He has a purpose.

This chapter also shows that God knows us and cares for us even about the issues of life. (body discharges)

Water (washing) - cleanses ceremonially

Blood (sacrifice) - cleanses morally

24 times this chapter mentions "discharge"

### Lev 15:1 1) A Man with Abnormal Discharge vs 1-15

The LORD also spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

Lev 15:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean.

- This discharge could be any number of things but they are all abnormal. From a runny nose, eye infection, vomiting, diarrhea, to venereal disease.

Lev 15:3 'This, moreover, shall be his uncleanness in his discharge: it is his uncleanness whether his body allows its discharge to flow or whether his body obstructs its discharge.

Lev 15:4 'Every bed on which the person with the discharge lies becomes unclean, and everything on which he sits becomes unclean.

Lev 15:5 'Anyone, moreover, who touches his bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening;

- Until Evening - In Jewish culture a new day begins in the evening when 3 stars are visible.
- Lamentations 3:22-23 "The LORD'S lovingkindnesses (mercies) indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

Lev 15:6 and whoever sits on the thing on which the man with the discharge has been sitting, shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:7 'Also whoever touches the person with the discharge shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:8 'Or if the man with the discharge spits on one who is clean, he too shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

- More likely means sneezes.

Lev 15:9 'Every saddle on which the person with the discharge rides becomes unclean.

Lev 15:10 'Whoever then touches any of the things which were under him shall be unclean until evening, and he who carries them shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:11 'Likewise, whomever the one with the discharge touches without having rinsed his hands in water shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:12 'However, an earthenware vessel which the person with the discharge touches shall be broken, and every wooden vessel shall be rinsed in water.

- Not only is a person unclean. (Germs, Viruses, Bacteria) but his clothes, furniture, his saddle, and his dishes.
- A visitor, family member, or a care giver must be careful what they touch.
- We look back into this time realizing that these germs exist. This all makes sense. But for these Israelites what they understand is God is introducing a concept that uncleanness and sickness can be transferred.
- Most wonderful is the sense that God cares to inform man that there are contagious diseases.

Lev 15:13 Now when the man with the discharge becomes cleansed from his discharge, then he shall count off for himself seven days for his cleansing; he shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in running water and will become clean.

Lev 15:14 'Then on the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and come before the LORD to the doorway of the tent of meeting and give them to the priest;

Lev 15:15 and the priest shall offer them, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf before the LORD because of his discharge.

- While being sick is not sin, sickness is in the world due to the fall of man.
- The sacrifice here is a Sin Offering to serve as a reminder that sickness is from a fallen nature and a Burnt Offering is given in gratitude of the Lord's great mercy.

Lev 15:16 **2) A Man with Normal Discharge** vs 15-18

'Now if a man has a seminal emission, he shall bathe all his body in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:17 'As for any garment or any leather on which there is seminal emission, it shall be washed with water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:18 'If a man lies with a woman {so that} there is a seminal emission, they shall both bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

- There is no sacrifice. Just a washing.
- Some have taken these verses to declare sex in marriage is unclean. This is taking the lesson here too far.
- God is simply contrasting Normal discharge with an abnormal discharge.
- When a man has a seminal discharge a man has to clean himself and respect a time of ceremonial uncleanness. No sense of moral uncleanness.
- Genesis 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh [have sex]."
- 1 Corinthians 7:1-9 "Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But this I say by way of concession, not of command. Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."
- Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
- Even though most of the Biblical Passages preferring to sex between an husband and a wife are associated with procreation, there is not found in scripture a prohibition of sex for pleasure between a husband and a wife.
- Song of Solomon contains a beautiful combination of similes and metaphors of young lover's affection, marriage and consummation. (Chapters 4 + 5)
- Just as the biblical writers present marital sex as holy and natural, all other forms of sexual activity are presented as condemned and sinful. In addition to adultery and fornication, the Bible expressly forbids homosexuality, bestiality, incest, prostitution, rape, pederasty, and all other forms of sexual deviance and perversity. [Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26-27; Ex. 22:19; Lev. 18:23; Lev. 18:6-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Ex. 2:16-17; Prov. 7:1-27].
- To Spiritualize this, one could say that a Husband and Wife should bath their intimacy in the Word of God.

Lev 15:19 **3) A Woman with Normal Discharge** vs 19-24

'When a woman has a discharge, {if} her discharge in her body is blood, she shall continue in her menstrual impurity for seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:20 'Everything also on which she lies during her menstrual impurity shall be unclean, and everything on which she sits shall be unclean.

Lev 15:21 'Anyone who touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:22 'Whoever touches anything on which she sits shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:23 'Whether it be on the bed or on the thing on which she is sitting, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:24 'If a man actually lies with her so that her menstrual impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days, and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean.

- Again, there is no sacrifice. Just a washing.
- When a woman is going through her normal menstrual period she is unclean for seven days. God acknowledges this natural body function.
- Is a woman's menstrual period a punishment/curse?
  - Some would quote the curse in Genesis 3:16 as a sign of a curse.
  - Yet a woman's menstrual cycle is a sign of the ability of bear offspring which Scripture declares is a Gift of God.
  - Psalm 127:3 "*Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.*"
  - The discomfort of this period may will be a reminder of the fallen nature of man but God
- Sex during a woman's menstrual period is prohibited in Leviticus 20:18 "*If a man lies with a woman during her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood. Both of them shall be cut off from their people.*" yet here in Leviticus 15:24 a man can sleep (??) with his wife though he would become unclean until he washes and evening comes.
  - An answer may be that Leviticus 20 is not between a married couple. But the question would be why is the emphasis on her flow? If it is about them being unmarried, than why would her flow even be mentioned?

Lev 15:25 **4) A Woman with Abnormal Discharge** vs 25-30

'Now if a woman has a discharge of her blood many days, not at the period of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond that period, all the days of her impure discharge she shall continue as though in her menstrual impurity; she is unclean. .

- This is beyond what is natural and normal.

Lev 15:26 'Any bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her like her bed at menstruation; and everything on which she sits shall be unclean, like her uncleanness at that time.

Lev 15:27 'Likewise, whoever touches them shall be unclean and shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Lev 15:28 'When she becomes clean from her discharge, she shall count off for herself seven days; and afterward she will be clean.

Lev 15:29 'Then on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons and bring them in to the priest, to the doorway of the tent of meeting.

Lev 15:30 'The priest shall offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement on her behalf before the LORD because of her impure discharge.' .

- Here we see an offering needs to be made for the Abnormal Discharge after her healing.

- As with the Man's Abnormal Discharge, being sick is not sin, sickness is in the world due to the fall of man.
- As with the Man's Abnormal Discharge, the sacrifice here is a Sin Offering to serve as a reminder that sickness is from a fallen nature and a Burnt Offering is given in gratitude of the Lord's great mercy.
- Luke 8:43-48 *"And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. And Jesus said, "Who is the one who touched Me?" And while they were all denying it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You." But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me." When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.""*
- The oral law, the Talmud, Mishnah, Gemara had Jews in Jesus day that a flow longer than the 7days is due to sin / immorality. Jesus healed this woman and told her to go in peace. The People would wonder about this new doctrine. Yet it was not new at all. It was an old doctrine that God heals cleans and restores.

Lev 15:31 **5) Summary** vs 31-33

**"Thus you shall keep the sons of Israel separated from their uncleanness, so that they will not die in their uncleanness by their defiling My tabernacle that is among them."**

- God in His great care for us separates man in their uncleanness, He speaks on the most intimate details of man's uncleanness **so that they will not die**.
- God desires life for us more than we realize.

Lev 15:32 **This is the law for the one with a discharge, and for the man who has a seminal emission so that he is unclean by it,**

Lev 15:33 **and for the woman who is ill because of menstrual impurity, and for the one who has a discharge, whether a male or a female, or a man who lies with an unclean woman.**

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