

JESUS CHRIST, THE LITTLE BIRD

INTRODUCTION: LEPROSY is a type and picture of SIN (see Lev. 13-14; Num. 5:2; 2 Kg. 5; 2 Chr. 26:11-13; Mt. 8:2-4; 10:8; 11:5; 26:6; Mk. 1:40; 14:3; and Lk. 4:27; 5:12-14; 7:22; 17:12-14):

NOTE THESE CHARACTERISTICS OF LEPROSY (SIN):

- 1. Leprosy begins as a small, insignificant spot or blemish.**
- 2. The individual does not realize his condition at first.**
- 3. Leprosy is progressive, sure to grow (the rate of growth varies with each individual).**
- 4. Leprosy affects the whole man; the worst kind of leprosy is leprosy in the forehead (2 Chron. 26).**
- 5. Leprosy is contagious and can affect others (Matt. 12:30-33).**
- 6. Leprosy causes the hair to fall out (no submission; note the Nazarite vow of separation and consecration in Num. 6).**
- 7. Leprosy causes insensibility (the hardened heart that is past feeling, as in Eph. 4:19 with 1 Tim. 4:1-2).**
- 8. The leper was separated, shut out from the camp because the camp was holy (Deut. 23:14 with Eph. 2:11-12).**
- 9. Leprosy was INCURABLE, with no natural answer or remedy (man's efforts are futile)—JESUS CHRIST ALONE can provide supernatural deliverance for the leper, the sinner!**

THE LAW OF CLEANSING FOR THE LEPER

Leviticus 14:1-7, KJV And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 This shall be the LAW (God's plan, not man's) of the LEPER (to scourge, diseased in the skin – the sinner) in the day of his CLEANSING (purification): He shall be BROUGHT (Jn. 6:44) unto the priest:

3 And the priest shall go forth OUT OF THE CAMP (outside the family, outside of Christ); and the priest shall look, and, behold, if the PLAGUE (stroke, blow, mark, spot) of LEPROSY be HEALED (rapha – to mend by stitching; cure) IN (from, out of; cp. aphesis – Jubilee) the leper (Eph. 2:1-12; Heb. 13:11-13);

4 Then shall the priest COMMAND (commission, ordain, appoint, give orders) to TAKE (choose, take in marriage) FOR HIM (each of us) that is to be cleansed two BIRDS (little birds, sparrows) ALIVE and CLEAN (pure), and CEDAR WOOD (king of the trees), and SCARLET (tola – worm, as in Ps. 22:6), and HYSSOP (smallest of plants)(every size of person or need/sin):

5 And the priest shall COMMAND (same as verse 4) that one of the BIRDS (Jesus' total identification with us as the Son of Man, as in Ezek. 3:15; Heb. 4:14-16) be KILLED (slaughtered in sacrifice) in an EARTHEN VESSEL (Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16) over RUNNING (living) WATER (the life of the Father within Him);

6 As for the LIVING BIRD (you and me), he shall TAKE it (seize; compare katalambano – apprehended, as in Phil. 3:12-14), and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall DIP (immerse, plunge – baptize, from bapto) them and the living bird in the BLOOD (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22) of the bird that was killed over the running water;

Leviticus 14:7 *And he shall SPRINKLE (Heb. 10:22; 12:24; 1 Pet. 1:2) upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy SEVEN TIMES (soteria – complete deliverance, cp. Lev. 16:14), and shall PRONOUNCE HIM CLEAN (be pure, bright; justification – to be declared righteous), and shall let the living bird LOOSE into the OPEN FIELD.*

2 Corinthians 3:18, KJV *But we all, with OPEN (unveiled) FACE beholding (worshipping) as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Finally, those who have been cleansed by the blood, like the living bird, have been “LOOSED” (compare *apostello* – sent away) or commissioned into the “OPEN FIELD.” The word for “open” here is *paniym*, the Hebrew word for “face.” We have been “loosed,” freed from the fowler (the devil) and his snare (Psa. 91:3; 124:7).

We have been cleansed, and now have been “LOOSED” into the FACE of God to WORSHIP our King!

1 Corinthians 16:9, KJV *For a GREAT DOOR AND EFFECTUAL (active, operative) IS OPENED unto me... (compare Acts 14:27).*

Revelation 3:8, KJV *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an OPEN DOOR, and no man can shut it... (cp. Col. 4:3).*

Moreover, have been “LOOSED” (sent away) into the “OPEN FIELD” of EVANGELISM (the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-20), the “open door” of a global harvest in the Feast of Tabernacles! The BLOOD of Jesus Christ, the Little Bird, has cleansed our leprosy, and has freed us:

1. Into the FACE of God for WORSHIP!
2. Into the OPEN DOOR of evangelism for SERVICE!

APPLICATION

1 John 1:7,9, KJV But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the BLOOD of Jesus Christ His Son CLEANSETH US (purifies, purges) from all sin...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE US (same) from all unrighteousness.

Have you sinned? Be dipped in the BLOOD of Jesus Christ, the Little Bird.

Has the sin which so easily besets you in the race of faith (Heb. 12:1) stood in your path to the finish line, your goal to win the prize? Let the BLOOD of the Little Bird “loose” you!

Luke 17:17-19, KJV And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten (lepers) cleansed? but where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

1 Corinthians 9:24, NAS Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but (only) ONE receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

This passage in Luke 17:12-19 tells the story of the ten lepers. ONE out of the ten who had been healed, the TITHE (there is a Tithe Company), “RETURNED to give GLORY to God.”

This ONE who returned to WORSHIP (upreach) and to SERVE (outreach), falling at the feet of the Master, is the “ONE” who wins the “PRIZE.” This ONE is the OVERCOMER (Rev. 2-3)!

Song 6:9, KJV My dove, my undefiled (the SHULAMITE) is but ONE; she is the ONLY ONE of her mother, she is the CHOICE ONE of her that bare her (examined, selected – pure, polished, and purged). The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

