

## Leviticus 13:1-59 Skin Disease and Prevention Pt 1

The Exodus of the Children of Israel and those who joined with them, when they fled Egypt, was more than six-hundred-thousand men over the age of twenty, not including women and children.

A rough total estimate, including the great mixed multitude, put the number of the Exodus at around two million people. Living in close proximity with one another, with their animals, could allow disease to spread rapidly if an infectious outbreak were to occur.

In this portion of Leviticus, Moses and Aaron were given Instructions to train the Priests on recognizing and identifying the various signs and symptoms that could indicate an infectious skin disease. They were also instructed on how to prevent or treat the disease, if it occurred, to keep it from spreading throughout the camp.

Moses, Aaron, and the Priests had to become supernatural medical practitioners by YeHoVaH to recognize and treat diseases amongst the people without becoming infected themselves.

Those of you who read the verses in this Chapter already know that there is a lot going on in these verses and the proper diagnosis of the skin issues were not as clear to determine.

Lev 13:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, saying,

Lev 13:2 When a man shall have in the skin of his flesh a rising, a scab, or bright spot, and it be in the skin of his flesh like the plague of leprosy; then he shall be brought unto Aaron the priest, or unto one of his sons the priests:

There were plagues or leprosy-like symptoms that were not the plague of leprosy.

Plague – **05061** נֶגַע nega' {neh'-gah}

**Meaning:** 1) stroke, plague, disease, mark, plague spot 1a) stroke, wound 1b) stroke (metaphorical of disease) 1c) mark (of leprosy)

**Usage:** AV - plague 65, sore 5, stroke 4, stripes 2, stricken 1, wound 1; 78

Leprosy – **06883** צָרַעַת tsara'ath {tsaw-rah'-ath}

**Meaning:** 1) leprosy 1a) in people, malignant skin disease (Le. 13-14) 1b) in clothing, a mildew or mould (Le. 13:47-52) 1c) in buildings, a mildew or mould (Le. 14:34-53)

**Usage:** AV - leprosy 35; 35

Four Leprous-like Skin Symptoms

Rising – **07613** שָׁעַת se'eth {seh-ayth'}

**Meaning:** 1) elevation, exaltation, dignity, swelling, uprising 1a) dignity, exaltation, loftiness 1b) swelling 1c) uprising

**Usage:** AV - rising 7, dignity 2, excellency 2, accepted 1, highness 1, raise up 1; 14

Scab – **05597** סַפַּחַת cappachath {sap-pakh'-ath}

**Meaning:** 1) eruption, scab, lesion 1a) either malignant or benign

**Origin:** from 05596; TWOT - 1534a; n f

**Usage:** AV - scab 2; 2

Bright spot – **0934** בֹּהֶרֶת bohereth {bo-heh'-reth}

**Meaning:** 1) white patch of skin, brightness, bright spot (on skin) 2) (CLBL) bright spot, scar, blister, boil 2a) resulting from fire 2b) resulting from inflammation of the skin 2c) possible sign of leprosy

**Usage:** AV - bright spot 13; 13

Plague – **05061** נֶגַע *nega` {neh'-gah}*

**Meaning:** 1) stroke, plague, disease, mark, plague spot 1a) stroke, wound 1b) stroke (metaphorical of disease) 1c) mark (of leprosy)

**Usage:** AV - plague 65, sore 5, stroke 4, stripes 2, stricken 1, wound 1; 78

All of those symptoms could indicate leprosy, but not be leprosy.

The people were brought to the Priests because it was not conclusive what the symptoms indicated, and it needed to be determined if the matter was an issue of clean or uncleanness or leprosy.

Clean or uncleanness did not require a strict separation, whereas leprosy did. When matters were not conclusive, but leaning toward the possibility of being leprous, the person was isolated or quarantined for seven days.

The symptoms indicated a potential skin ailment or disease that had to be properly diagnosed by the Priests based on the Instructions given.

The Priest's role was to determine what the skin issue was and what was to be done about it.  
Leprosy

Lev 13:3 And the priest shall look on the **plague** in the skin of the flesh: and *when* the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight *be* deeper than the skin of his flesh, it *is* a plague of leprosy: and the priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean.

When the priest pronounced him unclean, the person must be shut up for seven days.

Bright Spot

Lev 13:4 If the bright spot *be* white in the skin of his flesh, and in sight *be* not deeper than the skin, and the hair thereof *be* not turned white; then the priest shall shut up him that hath the plague seven days:

The person who is pronounced unclean shall be quarantined for seven days. Being unclean, as mentioned in the previous Chapters of Leviticus, can cause others to become unclean via contact.

The passage does not state that the person who has leprosy can spread leprosy, but it is clear they can spread uncleanness by contact based on previous Chapters.

Is leprosy contagious? These passages indicate the possibility but does not say specifically. Nevertheless, the person has to be shut up outside the camp and not allowed to come in contact with others.

After the seven days, he will be examined again.

Lev 13:5 And the priest shall look on him the seventh day: and, behold, *if* the plague in his sight *be* at a stay, *and* the plague spread not in the skin; then the priest shall shut him up seven days more:

If the person who was pronounced unclean has conditions that have not improved, he shall be quarantined for seven days more.

After the seven days, he will be examined again.

## A Scab

Lev 13:6 And the priest shall look on him again the seventh day: and, behold, *if* the plague *be* somewhat dark, *and* the plague spread not in the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean: it *is but* a scab: and he shall wash his clothes, and be clean.

Lev 13:7 **But** if the scab spread much abroad in the skin, after that he hath been seen of the priest for his cleansing, he shall be seen of the priest again:

After the examination, the second time after a fourteen-day period, the Priest will determine if the person is contaminated with plague of leprosy.

## Leprosy

Lev 13:8 And *if* the priest see that, behold, the scab spreadeth in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it *is a* leprosy.

Lev 13:9 When the plague of leprosy is in a man, then he shall be brought unto the priest;

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament speak of leprosy.

According to the teachings of Yeshua, leprosy is a curable disease.

The victims of leprosy not only suffer from the disease, but they also suffer from the shame that is associated with the disease, and from being isolated from their loved ones while they are infected with leprosy.

It is questionable whether or not leprosy is contagious based on the restrictions that are mentioned in these verses. The fact that the leper had to rent/tear his clothes, bare his head, put a covering on his upper lip, cry out "Unclean, unclean", and dwell alone outside the camp, according to verse 45-46, it's clear that the leper could render someone unclean if not infect them with the disease.

Lev 13:45 And the leper in whom the plague *is*, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean.

Lev 13:46 All the days wherein the plague *shall be* in him he shall be defiled; he *is* unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp *shall* his habitation *be*.

The disciples were given power to cleanse the lepers:

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Cleansing the lepers was part of the report given to John the Baptist when he inquired if Yeshua was the one or if he should look for another:

Matthew 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Yeshua used the cleansing of Naaman the leper, a Syrian, as an indictment against Israel.

Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Yeshua sent the lepers, He cleansed, to the Priest to show themselves and be pronounced clean. They were healed on their way to show themselves to the Priest.

Lk 17:12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

Lk 17:13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Yeshua, Master, have mercy on us.

Lk 17:14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Lk 17:15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

Lev 13:10 And the priest shall see *him*: and, behold, *if* the rising *be* white in the skin, and it have turned the hair white, and *there be* quick raw flesh in the rising;

Lev 13:11 It is an old leprosy in the skin of his flesh, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean, and shall not shut him up: for he *is* unclean.

Although the person is unclean, they will not be shut up or quarantined.

This verse leads one to conclude that because the person has an **old leprosy**, and is not shut up or quarantined, leprosy must not be contagious.

Lev 13:12 And if a leprosy break out abroad in the skin, and the leprosy cover all the skin of *him that hath* the plague from his head even to his foot, wheresoever the priest looketh;

Lev 13:13 Then the priest shall consider: and, behold, *if* the leprosy have covered all his flesh, he shall pronounce *him* clean *that hath* the plague: it is all turned white: he *is* clean.

Lev 13:14 But when raw flesh appeareth in him, he shall be unclean.

Lev 13:15 And the priest shall see the raw flesh, and pronounce him to be unclean: *for* the raw flesh *is* unclean: it *is* a leprosy.

Lev 13:16 Or if the raw flesh turn again, and be changed unto white, he shall come unto the priest;

Lev 13:17 And the priest shall see him: and, behold, *if* the plague be turned into white; then the priest shall pronounce *him* clean *that hath* the plague: he *is* clean.

Lev 13:18 The flesh also, in which, *even* in the skin thereof, was a **boil**, and is healed,

Boil – 07822 שֶׁחִיַּין shechiyn {shekh-ee'n'}

**Meaning:** 1) boil, inflamed spot, inflammation, eruption 1a) of man, leprosy, of man and beast

**Usage:** AV - boil 11, botch 2; 13

## A Rising or Bright Spot

Lev 13:19 And in the place of the boil there be a white rising, or a bright spot, white, and somewhat reddish, and it be shown to the priest;

Lev 13:20 And if, when the priest seeth it, behold, it *be* in sight lower than the skin, and the hair thereof be turned white; the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it *is* a plague of leprosy broken out of the boil.

Lev 13:21 But if the priest look on it, and, behold, *there be* no white hairs therein, and *if* it *be* not lower than the skin, but *be* somewhat dark; then the priest shall shut him up seven days:

Lev 13:22 And if it spread much abroad in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it *is* a plague.

## Bright Spot or Burning Boil

Lev 13:23 But if the bright spot stay in his place, *and* spread not, it *is* a burning boil; and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

Burning – **06867** צָרֶבֶת tsarebeth {tsaw-reh'-beth}

**Meaning:** n f 1) scab, scar of a sore adj 2) burning, scorching

**Usage:** AV - burning 2, **inflammation** 1; 3

Boil – **07822** שֶׁחִיַּין shechiyn {shekh-eeen'}

**Meaning:** 1) boil, inflamed spot, inflammation, eruption 1a) of man, leprosy, of man and beast

**Usage:** AV - boil 11, botch 2; 13

Lev 13:24 Or if there be *any* flesh, in the skin whereof *there is* a hot burning, and the quick *flesh* that burneth have a white bright spot, somewhat reddish, or white;

Burning – **04348** מִקְוָה mikvah {mik-vaw'}

**Meaning:** 1) burnt spot, burn scar

**Usage:** AV - burning 4, burneth 1; 5

Lev 13:25 Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, *if* the hair in the bright spot be turned white, and it *be in* sight deeper than the skin; it *is* a leprosy broken out of the burning: wherefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it *is* the plague of leprosy.

Lev 13:26 But if the priest look on it, and, behold, *there be* no white hair in the bright spot, and it *be* no lower than the *other* skin, but *be* somewhat dark; then the priest shall shut him up seven days:

Lev 13:27 And the priest shall look upon him the seventh day: *and* if it be spread much abroad in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean: it *is* the plague of leprosy.

## A Bright Spot or Rising

Lev 13:28 And if the bright spot stay in his place, *and* spread not in the skin, but it *be* somewhat dark; it *is* a rising of the burning, and the priest shall pronounce him clean: for it *is* an inflammation of the burning.

Inflammation – **06867** צָרֶבֶת tsarebeth {tsaw-reh'-beth}

**Meaning:** n f 1) scab, scar of a sore adj 2) burning, scorching

**Usage:** AV - burning 2, **inflammation** 1; 3

Burning – **04348** מִקְוָה mikvah {mik-vaw'}

**Meaning:** 1) burnt spot, burn scar

**Usage:** AV - burning 4, burneth 1; 5