

**Skin Infections and Mildew (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

Leviticus 13–14

**Diagnosis of Symptoms**

13:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

2 “When a person has on his body’s skin a swelling or an epidermal eruption or a spot and it becomes an infectious skin disease on his body’s skin, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests.

3 And the priest shall examine the infection on his body’s skin, and *if the* hair in the infection turns white and the appearance of the infection *is* deeper than his body’s skin, it *is* an infectious skin disease, and the priest shall examine it, and he shall declare him unclean.

4 But if a spot *is* white on his body’s skin and its appearance is not deeper than the skin and its hair does not turn white, then the priest shall confine the afflicted person *for* seven days.

5 And the priest shall examine it on the seventh day, and if, in his eyes, the infection has stayed *unchanged*, the infection has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall confine him *for* seven days *a second time*.

6 And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day *for a second time*, and if the infection has faded and the infection has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall declare him clean—it *is* an epidermal eruption; and he shall wash his garments, and so he shall be clean.

7 But if the epidermal eruption spreads further on the skin after showing himself to the priest for his cleansing, then he shall appear *a second time* to the priest.

8 And the priest shall examine *it*, and if the epidermal eruption has spread on the skin, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it is an infectious skin disease.

**Diagnosis of Chronic Ailments**

9 “When an infectious skin disease is on a person and he is brought to the priest,

10 the priest shall examine *it*, and if a white swelling *is* on the skin and it turns *the* hair white and raw flesh *is* in the swelling,

11 it *is* a chronic infectious skin disease on his body’s skin, and the priest shall declare him unclean; he shall not confine him, because he *is* unclean.

12 And if the infectious skin disease breaks out all over on the skin and the infectious skin disease covers all of the afflicted person’s skin from his head to his feet, so far as the priest can see,

13 then the priest shall examine *it*, and if the infectious skin disease covers his whole body, then he shall pronounce the afflicted person clean—all of it has turned white; he is clean.

14 But whenever raw flesh appears on him, he shall become unclean.

15 And the priest shall examine the raw flesh, and he shall pronounce him unclean—the raw flesh *is* unclean; it *is* an infectious skin disease.

16 Or, when the raw flesh returns and it has changed to white, then he shall come to the priest,

17 and the priest shall examine him, and if the infection has changed to white, then the priest shall pronounce the afflicted person clean—he is clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Boils**

18 “And when *someone’s* body has a skin sore on his skin and it is healed

19 and a white swelling or a pinkish spot appears in the skin sore’s place, then he shall show himself to the priest.

20 And the priest shall examine *it*, and if its appearance *is* deeper than the skin and its hair has changed to white, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it is an infectious skin disease; it has broken out in the skin sore.

21 And if the priest examines it and if there is no white hair in it and it is not deeper than the skin and it *is* faded, then the priest shall confine him *for* seven days.

22 But if it has spread further on the skin, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it *is* an infection.

23 But if the spot has stayed *unchanged*, it has not spread, it *is* the skin sore’s scar, so the priest shall declare him clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Burns**

24 “Or when a body has a burn-spot from fire on its skin and the raw flesh of the burn-spot *is* pinkish or white,

25 then the priest shall examine it, and if the hair turns white in the spot and its appearance *is* deeper than the skin, it *is* an infectious skin disease—it has broken out in the burn-spot; so the priest shall declare him unclean—it *is* an infectious skin disease.

26 But if the priest examines it and if there is not white hair in the spot and it is not deeper than the skin and it *is* faded, then the priest shall confine him *for* seven days.

27 And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day; if it has spread further on the skin, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it *is* an infectious skin disease.

28 But if it the spot has stayed *unchanged* in its place, it has not spread on the skin and it *is* faded, *then* it is the burn-spot’s swelling, so the priest shall declare him clean, because it *is* the burn-spot’s scar.

**Dealing With Complications—Sores**

29 “And when a man or a woman has an infection on *the* head or in *the* beard,

30 then the priest shall examine the infection, and if its appearance *is* deeper than the skin and in it *is* thin bright red hair, then the priest shall declare it unclean—it *is* a diseased area of skin; it *is* an infectious skin disease of the head or the beard.

31 But if the priest examines the diseased area of the skin’s infection and if its appearance is not deeper than the skin and there is no black hair in it, then the priest shall confine the afflicted person *with* the diseased area of skin *for* seven days.

32 And the priest shall examine the infection on the seventh day, and if the diseased area of skin has not spread and it does not have bright red hair in it and the diseased area of the skin’s appearance is not deeper than the skin,

33 then he shall shave himself, but he shall not shave the diseased area of skin, and the priest shall confine *the person with* the diseased area of skin *a second time for* seven days.

34 And the priest shall examine the diseased area of skin on the seventh day, and if the diseased area has not spread on the skin and its appearance is not deeper than the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean, and he shall wash his garments, and he shall be clean.

35 But if the diseased area of skin has not spread further on the skin after his cleansing,

36 then the priest shall examine him, and if the diseased area of skin has spread on the skin, the priest shall not inspect *for* bright red hair—he is unclean.

37 But if, in his eyes, the diseased area of skin has stayed *unchanged* and black hair has grown in it, the diseased area of skin is healed—he is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Spots**

38 “And when a man or a woman has spots on their body’s skin, white spots,

39 then the priest shall examine *them*, and if *the* spots on their body’s skin *are* a faded white, it *is* a skin rash; it has broken out on the skin—it *is* clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Baldness**

40 “And if a man becomes bald, his head *is* bald, he *is* clean.

41 And if he becomes bald from his forehead, his head *is* bald, he *is* clean.

42 But if a pinkish infection occurs on the bald spot or on the bald forehead, it *is* an infectious skin disease that sprouts on his bald spot or on his bald forehead.

43 So the priest shall examine him, and if the infection’s swelling *is* pinkish on his bald spot or on his bald forehead, like *the* appearance of an infectious skin disease *on* the body,

44 he *is* a man afflicted with a skin disease—he *is* unclean; the priest certainly shall declare him unclean—his infection *is* on his head.

**Rules for Living with an Infectious Skin Disease**

45 “As for the person who is afflicted with a skin disease, his garments must be torn and his hair must *be allowed to* hang loosely, and he must cover *his* upper lip, and he must call out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’

46 *For all the days during* which the infection *is* on him, he shall be unclean; he must live alone; his dwelling *must be* outside the camp.”

**Mildew in Fabrics and Leather**

13:47 “And when the garment has an infectious skin disease on it, on a wool garment or on a linen garment,

48 or on woven material or on a linen fabric, or on wool or on leather or on any work of leather,

49 and *if* the infection is yellowish green or reddish on the garment or on the leather or on the woven material or on the fabric or on any leather object, it *is* an infectious skin disease and it shall be shown *to* the priest.

50 And the priest shall examine the infection, and he shall confine the infected article *for* seven days.

51 And he shall examine the infection on the seventh day; if the infection has spread on the garment or on the woven material or on the fabric or on the leather, for any work for which the leather is used, the infection *is* a destructive skin disease—it *is* unclean.

52 And he shall burn the garment or the woven material or the fabric, whether wool or linen, or any leather object that has the infection, because it *is* an infectious skin disease, *which is* destructive—it must be burned in the fire.

53 “But if the priest examines *it* and if the infection has not spread on the garment or on the woven material or on the fabric or on any leather object,

54 then the priest shall command, and someone shall wash that on which the infection *is*, and he shall confine it *a second time for* seven days.

55 And the priest shall examine *it* after the infection has been washed off, and if the infection has not changed its outward appearance and the infection has not spread, it *is* unclean; he must burn it in the fire; it *is* a fungus on its back or on its front.

56 But if the priest examines *it* and if the infection *is* faded after it has been washed off, then he shall tear it from the garment or from the leather or from the woven material or from the fabric.

57 And if it appears again on the garment or on the woven material or on the fabric or on any leather object, it *is* spreading; you

must burn in the fire that which *has* the infection in it.

58 And the garment or the woven material or the fabric or any leather object that he might wash and the infection is removed from them then shall be washed *a second time*, and it shall be clean.”

59 This *is* the regulation of the infectious skin disease in the wool garment or the linen or the woven material or the fabric or any leather object to declare it clean or to declare it unclean.

#### **Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Admission Into the Camp**

14:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “This is the regulation of the person afflicted with a skin disease at the time of his cleansing. And he shall be brought to the priest, 3 and the priest shall go outside the camp, and the priest shall examine *him*, and if the skin disease’s infection is healed on the afflicted person,

4 then the priest shall command, and he shall take two living, clean birds and cedar wood and a crimson thread and hyssop for the one who presents himself for cleansing.

5 Then the priest shall command *someone* to slaughter one bird over fresh water in a clay vessel.

6 He must take the living bird and the cedar wood and the crimson thread and the hyssop, and he shall dip them and the living bird in the bird’s blood slaughtered over the fresh water.

7 And he shall spatter *the blood* seven times on the one who presents himself for cleansing from the infectious skin disease, and he shall declare him clean, and he shall send the living bird into the open field.

8 Then the one who presents himself for cleansing shall wash his garments, and he shall shave off all his hair, and he shall wash himself in the water; thus he shall be clean, and afterward he shall enter the camp, but he shall stay outside his tent *for* seven days.

9 And then on the seventh day he must shave off all his hair—he must shave his head and his beard and his eyebrows and all *the rest* of his hair—and he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body in the water; thus he shall be clean.

#### **Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Purification Offering**

10 “And on the eighth day he must take two male lambs without defect and one ewe-lamb in its first year without defect and three-tenths *of an ephah* of finely milled flour mixed with oil *as a grain offering* and one log of oil.

11 And the priest who cleanses *him* shall present the man who presents himself for cleansing and these things before the tent of assembly’s entrance.

12 Then the priest shall take the one male lamb, and he shall present it as a guilt offering, and the log of oil, and he shall wave them *as a wave offering* before Yahweh.

13 And he shall slaughter the male lamb in the place where he slaughters the sin offering and the burnt offering in the sanctuary’s space, because as the sin offering belongs to the priest, so *also* the guilt offering—it is a most holy thing.

14 And the priest shall take some of the guilt offering’s blood, and the priest shall put *it* on the right ear’s lobe of the one who presents himself for cleansing and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe.

15 And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and he shall pour *it* on his left palm;

16 and the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that *is* on his left palm, and he shall spatter some of the oil with his finger seven times before Yahweh.

17 Then the priest shall put some of the remaining oil, which *is* on his palm, on the right ear’s lobe of the one to be cleansed and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe, on *top of* the guilt offering’s blood.

18 And the remaining oil that *is* on the priest’s palm he shall put on the head of the one who presents himself for cleansing, and the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh.

19 Thus the priest shall sacrifice the sin offering, and he shall make atonement for the one who presents himself for cleansing from his uncleanness, and afterward he shall slaughter the burnt offering.

20 Then the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar, and the priest shall make atonement for him, and so he shall be clean.

#### **Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Purification Offering for the Poor**

21 “But if he *is* poor and he cannot afford *it*, then he shall take one male lamb *for* a guilt offering as a wave offering to make atonement for himself and one-tenth *of an ephah* of finely milled flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and a log of oil,

22 and two turtledoves or two young doves that he can afford, and one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

23 And he shall bring them to the priest at the tent of assembly’s entrance before Yahweh on the eighth day for his cleansing.

24 And the priest shall take the male lamb *for* the guilt offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them *as a wave offering* before Yahweh;

25 and he shall slaughter the male lamb of the guilt offering, and the priest shall take some of the guilt offering’s blood, and he shall put *it* on the right ear’s lobe of the one who presents himself for cleansing and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe.

26 Then the priest shall pour out some of the oil on his own left palm,

27 and with his right finger the priest shall spatter some of the oil that *is* on his left palm seven times before Yahweh.

28 Then the priest shall put some of the oil that *is* on his palm on the right ear's lobe of the one who presents himself for cleansing and on his right hand's thumb and on his right foot's big toe on the place of the guilt offering's blood.

29 And the remaining oil that *is* on the priest's palm he shall put on the head of the one who presents himself for cleansing to make atonement for him before Yahweh.

30 And he shall sacrifice one of the turtledoves or the young doves that he can afford,

31 *even* what he can afford, the one *as* a sin offering and the other *as* a burnt offering in addition to the grain offering, and the priest shall make atonement for the one who presents himself for cleansing before Yahweh.

32 This *is* the regulation of *the one* on whom *is* an infectious skin disease who cannot afford *the cost* for his cleansing."

#### **Mildew in the Home—Diagnosis and Repair**

33 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

34 "When you come into the land of Canaan, which I *am about* to give to you *as your* possession, and I put mildew in a house *in* the land of your possession,

35 then the one who owns the house shall come and tell the priest, saying, 'It appears to me *that* an infection *is* in the house.'

36 And the priest shall *issue a* command, and they shall clear out the house before the priest comes to examine the infection, so that all that *is* in the house might not become unclean; and afterward the priest shall go to examine the house.

37 And he shall examine the infection, and if the infection on the house's wall *has* yellowish-green or reddish spots and its appearance *is* deeper than *the surface of* the wall,

38 then the priest shall go out from the house to the house's entrance, and he shall confine the house *for* seven days.

39 And the priest shall return on the seventh day, and he shall examine *the infection*, and if the infection has spread on the house's wall,

40 the priest shall *issue a* command and they shall remove the stones on which *is* the infection, and they shall throw them outside the city on an unclean place.

41 Then they shall scrape off *the plaster* from all around the house, and they shall pour out the plaster, which they scraped off, outside the city on an unclean place.

42 And they shall take other stones, and they shall put *them* in place of *those* stones, and they shall take other plaster, and they shall replaster the house.

#### **Mildew in the Home—Provision for Reoccurrence**

43 "But if the infection should return and it breaks out in the house after they have removed the stones and after scraping off *the plaster* of the house and after it has been replastered,

44 then the priest shall come, and he shall examine *the infection*, and if the infection has spread in the house, it *is* a destructive mildew in the house—it *is* unclean.

45 So he shall break down the house, its stones and its wood and all of the house's plaster, and he shall bring *it all* outside the city to an unclean place.

46 And the person who enters into the house *during all the days that* he confined it shall become unclean until the evening.

47 And the person who sleeps in the house must wash his garments, and the person who eats in the house shall wash his garments.

#### **Mildew in the Home—Purification Offering**

48 "And if the priest comes again and examines *the house* and if the infection has not spread in the house after being replastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the infection is healed.

49 And he shall take two birds and cedar wood and a crimson thread and hyssop to cleanse the house;

50 and he shall slaughter the first bird over fresh water on a clay vessel.

51 Then he shall take the cedar wood and the hyssop and the crimson thread and the living bird, and he shall dip them in the slaughtered bird's blood and in the fresh water, and he shall spatter *them* on the house seven times.

52 Thus he shall purify the house with the bird's blood and with the fresh water and with the living bird and with the cedar wood and with the hyssop and with the crimson thread.

53 And he shall send the living bird outside the city into the open field; and so he shall make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean.

#### **Summary Statement**

54 "This *is* the instruction for any infectious skin disease and for the diseased area of skin,

55 and for a mildew of the garment and for the house,

56 and for the swelling and for the epidermal eruption and for the spot,

57 to teach when something is unclean and when something is clean. This *is* the regulation of the infectious skin disease."