

Bodily Discharges (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 15

Abnormal Male Discharges

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

2 “Speak to the Israelites, and you shall say to them, ‘Any man when a fluid discharge occurs from his body, his fluid discharge *is* unclean.

3 And this becomes his uncleanness in his fluid discharge: *whether* his body secretes his fluid discharge or his body blocks his fluid discharge, it *is* his uncleanness.

4 Any bed upon which the person who discharges lies down becomes unclean, and any object upon which he sits becomes unclean.

5 And anyone who touches his bed must wash his garments and shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until evening.

6 And the person who sits on the object upon which the person who discharges has sat must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

7 And the person who touches the body of the person who discharges must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

8 And if the person who discharges spits on *one who is* clean, then that one shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

9 And any saddle upon which the person who discharges rides becomes unclean.

10 And any person who touches anything that happened to be under him becomes unclean until the evening, and the person who carries them must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

11 And anyone whom the person who discharges might touch without rinsing off his hands with water shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

12 But a clay vessel that the person who discharges touches must be broken, and any wood object must be rinsed with water.

13 “ ‘And when the person who discharges becomes clean from his body fluid discharge, he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body with fresh water, and he shall be clean.

14 Then on the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young doves, and he shall come before Yahweh at *the* tent of assembly’s entrance, and he shall give them to the priest.

15 And the priest shall sacrifice one *as* a sin offering and the other *as* a burnt offering, and so the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh from his body fluid discharge.

Normal Male Discharges

16 “ ‘And if an emission of semen goes out from anyone, then he shall wash all of his body with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

17 And any garment and anything leather on which is an emission of semen shall be washed with water, and it shall be unclean until the evening.

18 If *there is* a woman with whom a man lies down *and there is* an emission of semen, then they shall wash *themselves* with water, and they shall be unclean until the evening.

Normal Female Discharges

19 “ ‘And when a woman is menstruating, her body fluid discharge occurs in her body; for seven days she shall be in her menstruation, and any person who touches her shall become unclean until the evening.

20 And anything upon which she lies down during her menstruation shall become unclean, and anything upon which she sits shall become unclean.

21 And any person who touches her bed must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

22 And any person who touches any object on which she sat must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

23 And if it *is* on the bed or on the object on which she sits, at his touching it he becomes unclean until the evening.

24 And if a man indeed lies with her and her menstruation occurs on him, then he shall be unclean *for* seven days, and any bed on which he lies down becomes unclean.

Abnormal Female Discharges

25 “ ‘And when a woman discharges a body fluid *consisting* of her blood *for* many days, *but* not *at* the time of her menstruation, or when she discharges in addition to her menstruation, all the days of her unclean body fluid discharge she shall become unclean *as in* the days of her menstruation.

26 Any bed on which she lies *during* all the days of her body fluid discharge shall become for her as her bed of menstruation, and any object on which she sits becomes unclean as her menstruation’s uncleanness.

27 And any person who touches them becomes unclean, and he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

28 “And if she is clean from her body fluid discharge, then she shall count for herself seven days, and afterward she becomes clean.
29 And on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young doves, and she shall bring them to the priest at *the* tent of assembly’s entrance.

30 And the priest shall sacrifice the one *as* a sin offering and the other *as* a burnt offering, and so the priest shall make atonement for her before Yahweh from her unclean body fluid discharge.’

Summary

31 “And you shall keep the Israelites separate from their uncleanness so that they might not die because of their uncleanness by their making my tabernacle, which *is* in their midst, unclean.

32 “This *is* the regulation of *the one* with the body fluid discharge and *the one* from whom an emission of semen goes out so that he becomes unclean by it

33 and concerning the menstruating *woman* in her bleeding and the person who discharges his body fluid, for the male and for the female and for a man who lies with an unclean woman.”

The Day of Atonement (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 16

General Instructions

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron’s two sons, when they had come near before Yahweh and they died.

2 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Tell your brother Aaron *that* he should not enter at any time into the sanctuary behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover that *is* on the ark, so that he might not die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

3 “Aaron must enter the sanctuary with this: a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering.

4 He must put on a holy linen tunic, and linen undergarments must be on his body, and he must fasten *himself* with a linen sash, and he must wrap a linen turban around *his head*—they *are* holy garments, and he shall wash his body with water, then he shall put them on.

5 And he must take from the Israelites’ community two he-goats as a sin offering and one ram as a burnt offering.

6 “And Aaron shall present the sin offering’s bull, which *is* for himself, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for his family.

7 And he shall take the two goats, and he shall present them before Yahweh *at the* tent of assembly’s entrance.

8 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for Yahweh and one for Azazel.

9 And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot for Yahweh fell, and he shall sacrifice it *as* a sin offering.

10 But he must present alive before Yahweh the goat on which the lot for Azazel fell to make atonement for himself, to send it away into the desert to Azazel.

Offerings of the High Priest in the Most Holy Place

11 “And Aaron shall present the sin offering’s bull, which *is* for himself, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for his family; then he shall slaughter the sin offering’s bull, which *is* for himself.

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning charcoal from upon the altar from before Yahweh and two handfuls of incense of powdered fragrant perfumes, and he shall bring *it* from behind the curtain,

13 and he shall put the incense on the fire before Yahweh so that the cloud of incense might cover the atonement cover, which *is* on the covenant text, so that he might not die.

14 And he shall take some of the bull’s blood, and he shall spatter *it* with his finger on the atonement cover’s surface on the eastern *side*, and before the atonement cover he shall spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times. [[Heb 9:7–10](#)]

Purification for the Tabernacle

15 “And he shall slaughter the sin offering’s goat, which *is* for the people, and he shall bring its blood from behind the curtain, and he shall do with its blood as that which he did with the bull’s blood, and he shall spatter it on the atonement cover and before the atonement cover.

16 Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary from the Israelites’ impurities and from their transgressions for all their sins; and so he must do for *the* tent of assembly, which dwells with them in the midst of their impurities.

17 And no person shall be in *the* tent of assembly when he enters to make atonement in the sanctuary until he comes out, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for his family and for all of Israel’s assembly.

18 “Then he shall go out to the altar that *is* before Yahweh, and he shall make atonement for it; and he shall take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood, and he shall put *it* all around on the altar’s horns.

19 And he shall spatter some of the blood on it seven times with his finger, and he shall cleanse it and consecrate it from the Israelites’ impurities. [[Heb 9:22–24](#)]

The Scapegoat

20 “And he shall finish making atonement *for* the sanctuary and *the* tent of assembly and the altar; then he shall present the living

goat.

21 And Aaron shall place his two hands on the living goat's head, and he shall confess over it all the Israelites' iniquities and all their transgressions for all their sins, and he shall put them on the goat's head, and he shall send *it* away into the desert with a man *standing* ready.

22 Thus the goat shall bear on it to a barren region all their guilt, and he shall send the goat away into the desert. [[Heb 13:12–13](#)]

The Burnt Offering

23 "And Aaron shall enter *the* tent of assembly, and he shall take off the linen garments that he put on at his coming to the sanctuary, and he shall leave them there.

24 And he shall wash his body with water in a holy place, and he shall put on his garments and go out and sacrifice his burnt offering and the people's burnt offering, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for people.

25 And he must turn into smoke the sin offering's fat on the altar.

26 "And the person who sends out the goat for Azazel shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body with water, and afterward he shall come to the camp.

Disposal of the Offerings

27 And the sin offering's bull and the sin offering's goat, whose blood was brought to make atonement in the sanctuary, shall be brought outside the camp, and they shall burn their hide and their flesh and their offal in the fire. [[Heb 13:11](#)]

28 And the person who burns them shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body with water, and afterward he must come to the camp.

Day of Atonement is a Permanent Statute

29 "And this shall be a lasting statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth of the month, you must deny yourselves and you must not do any work, *whether* the native or the alien who is dwelling in your midst,

30 because on this day he shall make atonement for you to cleanse you; you must be clean from all your sins before Yahweh.

31 *It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall deny yourselves—it is a lasting statute.*

32 And the priest who is anointed and who is ordained to serve as a priest in place of his father shall make atonement; thus he shall put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

33 and he shall make atonement for the sanctuary's holy place, and he shall make atonement for *the* tent of assembly and the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all of the assembly's people.

34 And this shall be a lasting statute for you to make atonement for the Israelites one time in a year from all their sins." [[Heb 10:1–4](#)]

Playing the Harlot with Goats (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 17

All Sacrifices Must Be Brought to the Tabernacle

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the Israelites, and you shall say to them, 'This is the word that Yahweh has commanded, saying,

3 "Any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a sheep or a goat in the camp or who slaughters *it* outside the camp

4 and he does not bring it to the tent of assembly's entrance to present an offering to Yahweh before Yahweh's tabernacle, then that man shall be accounted bloodguilty—he has poured out blood, and that man shall be cut off from the midst of his people.

5 *This is* so that the Israelites may bring their sacrifices that they are sacrificing in the open field and bring them for Yahweh to *the* tent of assembly's entrance to the priest, and they shall sacrifice fellowship offerings for Yahweh with them.

6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on Yahweh's altar *at the* tent of assembly's entrance, and he shall burn the fat as an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

7 And they may no longer sacrifice their sacrifices to the goat-idols after which they were prostituting. This is a lasting statute for them throughout their generations."

8 "And you shall say to them, '*if there is* anyone from the house of Israel or from the alien who dwells in their midst who offers a burnt offering or a sacrifice

9 and he does not bring it to *the* tent of assembly's entrance to sacrifice it for Yahweh, then that man shall be cut off from his people.

Eating of Blood Prohibited

10 And *if there is* anyone from the house of Israel or from the alien who is dwelling in their midst who eats any blood, then I will set my face against the person who eats the blood, and I will cut him off from among his people.

11 Indeed the flesh's life *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your lives, because *it is* the blood with the life that makes atonement.

12 Therefore I said to the Israelites, ‘None of you may eat blood, nor may the alien who is dwelling in your midst eat blood.’

13 “And *if there is* anyone from the Israelites or from the alien who is dwelling in their midst who hunts a wild game animal or a bird that may be eaten, then he shall pour out its blood, and he shall cover it with the soil.

14 Indeed, *the* life of all flesh, its blood, *is* in its life, so I said to the Israelites, ‘You may not eat *the* blood of any flesh, because *the* life of all flesh *is* its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off.’

Carcasses and Contamination

15 “And *if there is* any person who eats a dead body or a mangled carcass, *whether* among the native or among the alien, then he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening, and he shall be clean.

16 But if he does not wash *his garments* and he does not wash his body, then he shall bear his guilt.”

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