

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

July 22, 2026

Leviticus 12

Introduction:

1. Leviticus 11 contains instructions regulating clean and unclean animals.
 - a) The focus is on what can be eaten and touched.
 - b) While the implication is on sanitation and disease control, the reason for these regulations is explicitly stated. (Lev. 11.44,45; 20.22-26; 2 Cor. 6.17,18; 1 John 4.4-6)
2. Leviticus 12 centers around clean and unclean in reference to childbirth.

I. UNCLEANNESS FROM CHILDBIRTH

- A. The birth of a male child.
 1. **Leviticus 12.1:** *"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,"* This was a law given to Israel and did not involve the priests. (cf. Lev. 11.1)
 2. **Leviticus 12.2:** *"If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child."*
 3. **Leviticus 12.2,4:** Two distinct stages of impurity.
 - a) **Leviticus 12.2:** *"she shall be unclean seven days"* (cf. Lev. 15.19-24)
 - b) **Leviticus 12.4:** *"blood of her purification thirty-three days"* Only here.
 4. **Leviticus 12.3:** Circumcised on the eighth day.
 - a) What was the purpose of circumcision? (Gen. 17.11-13)
 - b) The New Testament metaphor (Col. 2.11-15)
 5. Who was considered impure? (cf. Ps. 51.5; Isa. 7.15,16; Ezek. 18.20)
- B. The birth of a female child.
 1. **Leviticus 12.5:** *"But if she bears a female child"*
 2. **Leviticus 12.5:** The time required for purification was doubled. Why?

II. THE SACRIFICE FROM CHILDBIRTH

- A. Two sacrifices were required after giving birth.
 1. **Leviticus 12.6:** *"a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering"* (cf. Lev. 1.3,4)
 2. **Leviticus 12.6:** *"a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering"*
 - a) Sin offering (chattat): Literally, purification offering whether from sin or from physical impurities.
 - b) This was distinct from the sin offerings of Leviticus 4,5. (Lev. 4.27,28; 5.7)
 3. **Leviticus 12.7:** *"make atonement for her"*
 - a) Was giving birth considered a sin? (cf. Ps. 127.3-5; Luke 2.22-24)
 - b) Why was it necessary to make atonement for her? (v. 7)
- B. The provision for the impoverished.
 1. **Leviticus 12.8:** *"she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering."*
 2. **Leviticus 12.8:** *"make atonement for her, and she will be clean"*