

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

July 29, 2026

Leviticus 13:1-23

Introduction:

1. The priests' responsibility was to "*distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean*" (Lev. 10.10; 13.1; cf. Matt. 8.2-4).
2. Leprosy in the Bible is not the same thing as modern day leprosy.
3. Leviticus 13,14 provides the priests with instructions on how to diagnose leprosy.

I. THE DEFINITION OF LEPROSY

A. What is leprosy?

1. Leprosy (Tsara'at): "infectious skin disease" [Mounce].
 - a) In the Greek, "lepra" means "scaly."
 - b) Not a bacteria or virus. Likely a type of mold. (Lev. 13.47-49; 14.37,54-57)
2. **Leviticus 13.2,3:** "*When a man has on the skin of his body...*" General.
3. **Leviticus 13.4ff:** "*if...then the priest shall*" From the general to the specific.

B. What is leprosy today?

1. In the 1800's medical scholars observed a skin condition caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* (lit., scaly bacteria).
 - a) They initially called it "leprosy" assuming it was the same as in the Bible.
 - b) They believed that this disease was extremely contagious.
2. In 1873, Gerhard Hensen discovered the underlying cause of the disease.
 - a) In 1949, the name was changed to Hansen's disease to avoid confusion.
 - b) Hansen's disease: A bacterial infection that affects the nerves.

I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

A. The initial diagnosis. (Lev. 13.1-8)

1. **Leviticus 13.2-4:** First examination.
2. **Leviticus 13.5:** Second examination.
3. **Leviticus 13.6-8:** Third examination.

B. Chronic cases. (Lev. 13.9-17)

1. **Leviticus 13.9:** This applies to late stage leprosy.
2. **Leviticus 13.10,11:** Three specific markers that indicate leprosy.
3. **Leviticus 13.12:** "*covers all the skin...from head to foot*"
 - a) **Leviticus 13.12,13:** If it is all white, no open sores, then he is clean.
 - b) **Leviticus 13.14,15:** If the skin is raw, then he is unclean.
 - c) **Leviticus 13.16,17:** If after reexamination, his skin is white, he is clean.

C. Leprosy from a boil. (Lev. 13.18-23)

1. **Leviticus 13.18,19:** This applies to leprosy outbreak from a healed boil.
2. **Leviticus 13.20,21:** First examination.
3. **Leviticus 13.22,23:** Second examination.