



Thru the Bible in 2012

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8

Ladies for Jesus Thursday Bible Study Lesson

Readings for April 20, 2012 – April 26, 2012

Class Discussion: Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ceremonially Clean and Unclean

The Miracle of Childbirth - Unclean? (Leviticus 12:1-4)

Unclean did not mean sinful or dirty. God created male and female and told them to be fruitful and multiply. He was making a distinction between pagan worship and worship of Him, the One True God.

Detestable acts were very common in the pagan nations of Canaan. The Lord was cleansing His people (and us today) from participation in the pagan religions. (e.g. Leviticus 20:10-21)

Do your practices in worship to God resemble those of a pagan nature? The Israelites worshiped God as their loving Creator and Provider, and they thanked Him for bountiful crops, marital love, and safe childbirth. How do you worship God and what are you thankful for?

Could grandma have been right?(Leviticus 12-15)

Cleanliness is next to Godliness . . . Could grandma have been quoting Scripture? Washing was a God-directed means to maintain physical health; acts of purification or cleansing were God-directed means to preserve spiritual dignity.

The Seven Day Quarantine ~ the Biblical meaning of the number 7.

The number 7 signifies completion or perfection (Genesis 7:2-4; Revelation 1:20). It is often called “God’s number” since He is the only One who is perfect and complete (Revelation 4:5; 5:1, 5-6). The number 3 is also thought to be the number of divine perfection: The Trinity consists of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Other Biblical Numbers of interest:

40: The number 40 is often understood as the “number of probation or trial.” For example: the Israelites wandered for 40 years (Deuteronomy 8:2-5); Moses was on the mount for 40 days (Exodus 24:18); 40 days were involved in the story of Jonah and Nineveh (Jonah 3:4); Jesus was tempted for 40 days (Matthew 4:2); there were 40 days between Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:3).

4: Another number repeated in the Bible is 4, which is the number of creation: North, South, East, West; four seasons.

6: The number 6 is thought to be the number of man: Man was created on the 6th day; man labors 6 days only.

666: Another example of the Bible using a number to signify something is the number 666, the number of the Antichrist in Revelation chapter 13.

Blessings for Obedience / Punishment for Disobedience (Leviticus 26)

If the Israelites obeyed, there would be peace in the land. If they disobeyed, disaster would follow. God used sin’s consequences to draw them to repentance, not to get back at them. Today, sin’s consequences are not always so apparent. When calamity strikes us, we may not know the reason. It may be:

1. The result of our own disobedience.
2. The result of someone else’s disobedience.
3. The result of natural disaster.

Because we don’t know, we should search our hearts and be sure we are at peace with God.

Regardless of our disobedience, God loves us. God’s love doesn’t depend on what we have done – if so, we would have NO hope. He loves us because He is Love and for our own sake. (Leviticus 26:44-45)

Do you search your heart when “disaster” strikes? God’s Holy Spirit is like a searchlight and will reveal those areas we need to deal with in our lives. Seek Him so that He can reveal to you the source of the “disaster” and your needed response. Keep in mind that because calamity is not always the result of wrongdoing, we must guard against assigning or accepting blame for every tragedy we encounter. Misplaced guilt is one of Satan’s favorite weapons against believers.

Old/New Systems of Sacrifice(the book of Leviticus and the book of Hebrews)

Jesus came to fulfill the law – not replace it. (Matthew 5:17-20)

<i>Old System of Sacrifice</i>	<i>New System of Sacrifice</i>
Was temporary (Hebrews 8:13)	Is permanent (Hebrews 7:21)
Aaron first high priest (Leviticus 16:32)	Jesus only High Priest (Hebrews 4:14)
From tribe of Levi (Hebrews 7:5)	From tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14)
Ministered on earth (Hebrews 8:4)	Ministers in heaven (Hebrews 8:1-2)
Used blood of animals (Leviticus 16:15)	Uses blood of Christ (Hebrews 10:4-12)
Required many sacrifices (Hebrews 10:1-3)	Requires one sacrifice – Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:28)
Needed perfect animals (Leviticus 22:19)	Needs a perfect life (Hebrews 5:9)
Required careful approach to Tabernacle (Leviticus 16:2)	Encourages confident approach to throne (Hebrews 4:16)
Looked forward to new system (Hebrews 10:1)	Sets aside old system (Hebrews 10:9)

What part of the Old Testament law do you “discount” because you have believed it didn’t apply to your life on this side of the cross? Do you feel that you are following God’s will by doing so?