

# Leviticus 13:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if a leprosy break out abroad in the skin, and the leprosy cover all the skin of him that hath the plague from his head even to his foot, wheresoever the priest looketh;

## Analysis

**And if a leprosy break out abroad in the skin, and the leprosy cover all the skin of him that hath the plague from his head even to his foot, wheresoever the priest looketh;**

This verse falls within the section on **Diagnosing Skin Diseases**. Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צָרָעָת, tzaraat), often translated 'leprosy' but covering various conditions.

The Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

## Historical Context

Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צָרָעָת, tzaraat), often translated 'leprosy' but covering various conditions. Chapters 11-15 address ritual purity, teaching Israel to distinguish clean from unclean. These laws served multiple purposes: promoting health, teaching spiritual lessons about sin's defilement, and separating Israel from pagan practices. Archaeological evidence shows Canaanite worship involved practices Israel's laws explicitly prohibited.

Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

## Interlinear Text

וְאֵם	תִּפְכֶּבֶת	תִּפְכֶּבֶת	בְּאֵבֶב עַת	בְּאֵבֶב עַת	וְעַז	וְעַז	כִּיסְתָּה
H518	<b>abroad</b>	<b>abroad</b>	<b>And if a leprosy</b>	<b>all the skin</b>	<b>cover</b>		
	H6524	H6524	H6883	H5785	H3680		
מְרַאשׁ	בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא	בְּאֵבֶב עַת	בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא	מְרַאשׁ
<b>from his head</b>	<b>from his head</b>	<b>from his head</b>	<b>all the skin</b>	<b>all the skin</b>	<b>all the skin</b>	<b>all the skin</b>	<b>from his head</b>
	H853	H3605	H5785	H5061	H7218		
וְעַד	בְּגַלְיוֹן	לְכָל	לְכָל	עִינֵּי	מְרַאַת	בְּכָל	בְּכָל
H5704	<b>even to his foot</b>	H3605	<b>looketh</b>	H5869	<b>wheresoever the priest</b>		
	H7272		H4758		H3548		

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