

# Leviticus 13:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest shall command that they wash the thing wherein the plague is, and he shall shut it up seven days more:

## Analysis

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**Then the priest shall command that they wash the thing wherein the plague is, and he shall shut it up seven days more:**

This verse falls within the section on **Diagnosing Skin Diseases**. Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צִרְעָה, 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 holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

## Historical Context

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Detailed procedures for priests to diagnose skin diseases (צִרְעָה, 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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

## Interlinear Text

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וְצִוָּה	הַכֹּהֵן	וְכַבֵּשׁ וְ	אֶת	אֲשֶׁר	וְ
shall command	Then the priest	that they wash	H853	H834	H0
H6680	H3548	H3526			
הַנֶּגַע	וְהִסְגִּיר וְ	שִׁבְעַת	יָמִים	שְׁנֵי:	
the thing wherein the plague	is and he shall shut	it up seven	days	more	
H5061	H5462	H7651	H3117	H8145	

