

# Leviticus 13:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the law of the plague of leprosy in a garment of woollen or linen, either in the warp, or woof, or any thing of skins, to pronounce it clean, or to pronounce it unclean.

## Analysis

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**This is the law of the plague of leprosy in a garment of woollen or linen, either in the warp, or woof, or any thing of skins, to pronounce it clean, or to pronounce it unclean.**

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.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

## 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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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
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 reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

## Interlinear Text

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זֹאת	תּוֹרַת	נֶגַע	צָרַעַת	בְּגָד	אִוֹ הַצֹּמֶר	
H2063	<b>This is the law</b>	<b>of the plague</b>	<b>of leprosy</b>	<b>in a garment</b>	<b>of woollen</b>	H176
	H8451	H5061	H6883	H899	H6785	
הַפָּשֶׁת יִם	אִוֹ	הַשֵּׁתִי	אִוֹ	הַעֲרֹב	אִוֹ	כָּל
<b>or linen</b>	H176	<b>either in the warp</b>	H176	<b>or woof</b>	H176	H3605
H6593		H8359		H6154		<b>or any thing</b>
						H3627
עֹר	לְטַהֵר וֹ	אִוֹ	לְטַמְּאוֹ:			
<b>of skins</b>	<b>to pronounce it clean</b>	H176	<b>or to pronounce it unclean</b>			
H5785	H2891		H2930			

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