

# Leviticus 14:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To teach when it is unclean, and when it is clean: this is the law of leprosy.

## Analysis

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**To teach when it is unclean, and when it is clean: this is the law of leprosy.**

This verse falls within the section on **Cleansing from Skin Diseases**. Elaborate cleansing ritual for healed lepers, involving birds, blood, and multiple offerings, symbolizing restoration.

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

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

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Elaborate cleansing ritual for healed lepers, involving birds, blood, and multiple offerings, symbolizing restoration. 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. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of 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. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

## Interlinear Text

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לְהוֹרֹת	וּבִי וּמִ	הֵטֵמֵ א	וּבִי וּמִ	הֵטֵה ר	זֶה אֵת	תוֹכֵה ת
<b>To teach</b>	<b>and when</b>	<b>it is unclean</b>	<b>and when</b>	<b>it is clean</b>	H2063	<b>this is the law</b>
H3384	H3117	H2931	H3117	H2889		H8451

הַצָּרַעַת:  
**of leprosy**  
H6883

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 10:10** (Parallel theme): And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

**Jeremiah 15:19** (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

**Ezekiel 44:23** (Parallel theme): And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

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