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The Examination Boils

13: 18-23

The examination of boils DIG: When did the priest declare a person unclean? What was the purpose of teaching the concepts of being ritually clean and ritually unclean? How did God use tsara'at as an example of the holiness for the Israelites? How can believers determine their own spiritual health? When you have been victorious in a battle with a sin-symptom, what led to your victory? What practical warnings against sin would you give others?

REFLECT: How do you distinguish between the kingdom of sin and death, and Kingdom of Life and Righteousness? What guides your decisions? What is your "owner's manual?" In what sense is Yeshua Messiah your own personal physician (Isaiah 53:5)? Why is it that unless the heart is changed, there can be no solving the sin problem? What happens to the "good news" message of the Gospel when the "bad news" of sin defiling all it touches is left out?



Beginning with the previous Torah portion (to see link click [Bc](#) - On the Eighth Day), and continuing with this one, we have been examining the concepts of being

ritually clean and ritually unclean in terms of what they can teach us about two kingdoms: the kingdom of sin and death (see [By](#) - The Test of Tsara'at), and **the Kingdom of Life and Righteousness** (see [Cg](#) - The Test of M'tsora). There were **seven cases of tsara'at** given in Chapter 13, this is **the third**.

The third case introduced by the Hebrew word *ki*, or **when**, deals with possible complications with **boils** on the surface of **the skin**. The affliction of **boils** was experience by **Job** (**Job 2:7**), and also was one of **the ten plagues** upon **Egypt** (see the commentary on **Exodus Bp** - **Moses Tossed Soot in the Air and Festering Boils Broke Out**). **Moshe** also warned that if **Isra'el** refused to serve **the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**, she would be **stricken with the boils of Egypt, with hemorrhoids, with scabs and with itching, from which they could not be healed** (see the commentary on **Deuteronomy Fh** - **Defeat and Deportation**).²¹⁴

When a person had on his skin a boil that healed in such a way that in place of the boil there was a white swelling or a reddish-white bright spot, it was to be shown to the priest. If, after the boil had healed, he saw that it appeared to be more than skin-deep, and its hair had turned white, then the priest was to pronounce him unclean - the disease of tsara'at had broken out in the boil. But if the priest looked at it and didn't see any white hairs in it, and it wasn't more than skin-deep but appeared faded, the priest was to quarantine him for seven days. If it spread on the skin (see [By](#) - The Examination of Spreading Tsara'at), the priest was to declare him unclean; it was the disease. But if the bright spot stayed where it was and had not spread, it was only the scar of the boil; and the priest was therefore to declare him clean (13:18-23).

ADONAI was using tsara'at as an illustration of the kingdom of sin and death. There was to be no compromise when it came to tsara'at, and there was to be no compromise in the purity and holiness of the individual Israelite so that he would not die in a state of ritual uncleanness for defiling God's holy Tabernacle/Temple (Leviticus 15:31).

We, like the ancient Israelites, should not compromise our spiritual purity and holiness. We need to realize that there is a spiritual battle going on in our lives. **John** warns us: **do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, then the love of the Father is not in him; for all that is in the world - the desires of the old nature, the desires of the eyes, and pride in our achievements and possessions - these are not from the Father, but are from this world. The world is passing away, and also**

its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever (First John 2:15-17).

The kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God are inherently incompatible, mutually exclusive and opposed to one another (**First John 4:5-6, 5:4-5; John 15:19; Galatians 6:14**). True believers, therefore, will not be characterized by a habitual **love** for **the world**, nor will worldly people demonstrate a genuine affection for **the Gospel** and **its Lord** (**John 3:20; Acts 7:51, 13:8-10, 17:5 and 13; Romans 8:7; Colossians 1:21, and First Thessalonians 2:14-16**).

Clearly, there is an unmistakable line of demarcation between the things of **God** and the things of **the world**. The ongoing moral and ethical deterioration of contemporary culture makes this obvious. Even brief consideration provides a lengthy list of cultural agendas that are aggressively hostile to biblical teachings: an attack on the traditional family by feminism; an active promotion of sexual promiscuity and homosexuality (see [Ae - The Bible and Homosexual Practice](#)); an emphasis on materialism and hedonism by the secular media; a steady decline in standards of personal integrity and business ethics; the confusion of right and wrong by post-modern relativism; and so on . . .

To support **his** rebuke, **John** doesn't offer a long list of specifics or detailed illustrations. Instead, **he** presents **three general reasons** believers must **not love the world: because of who they are, because of what the world does, and because of where the world is going.**

1. Because of who believers are: If anyone loves the world, then the love of the Father is not in him (**First John 2:15b**). Because believers are forgiven (**Psalm 86:5, 130:3-4; Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 26:28; Luke 1:77; Ephesians 1:7 and 4:32; Colossians 1:14, 2:13-14, 3:13; First John 2:12**), have a true knowledge of **God** (**Second Corinthians 2:14, 4:6; Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 1:9-10**), have the Word of God living in them (**Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16**), have overcome Satan (**James 4:7; First John 4:4**), and have an increasingly intimate relationship with **the Father** (**First John 2:12-14**), they cannot **love the world**. **Anyone** who **loves the world** demonstrates that **the love of the Father is not in him**. Like **Demas**, such a spiritual defector reveals that any previous claim to know and **love God** was nothing but a lie (**First John 2:19**).

Nevertheless, the basic identity of believers as the children of **ADONAI** does not make us immune to **the world's** allure. Because we are still **sinners** – saved by grace – we are tempted through our remaining flesh by **the world's** behaviors and schemes (**Matthew 26:41; First Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 6:16; James 1:12-14; First Peter 5:8-9**). Whether the temptation comes from **worldly** priorities, **worldly** amusements,

worldly riches, or **worldly** lusts, we need to resist **the world's** efforts to seduce us. **Yeshua** warned **His** listeners: **No servant can serve two masters; for he will either hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money (Luke 16:13).**

2. Because of what the world does: For all that is in the world - the desires of the old nature, the desires of the eyes, and pride in our achievements and possessions - these are not from the Father, but are from this world (First John 2:16). Although it manifests **itself** in external actions, the roots of **sin** go much deeper, embedded in the very fabric of the depraved human heart. **Sin** permeates the fallen mind, internally defiling **the sinner** in every aspect of **his** being (Matthew 15:18-20). Thus, the TaNaKh likens **sin** to a deadly **plague** (First Kings 8:38), **filthy garments** (Zechariah 3:3-4), or even **filthy menstrual rags** (Isaiah 64:6). **Sin** is so foul that **Ha'Shem** hates it (Proverbs 15:9) and **sinner**s loathe themselves because of **their** inherent weakness (Ezeki'el 6:9). **Sin** is so humanly incurable that **sinner**s have no capacity in and of **themselves** to remedy **their sin** (Romans 8:7-8; First Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1). Finally, **sin** is universal. **David** wrote: **They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one (Psalm 14:3; Isaiah 53:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10-12, 3:23, and 5:12).**

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** that **Your** love for me is unfailing! **Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you (Isaiah 54:10).** Though no one has the capacity within to conquer **sin**, when we do **You** in love, **You** give us the strength we need by taking away **the veil** so we can love **You** clearly, and be united with **Messiah**. **But their minds were hardened. For up to this very day the same veil remains unlifted at the reading of the ancient covenant, since in Messiah it is passing away. . . But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away (Second Corinthians 3:14, 16).** Making known to us the mystery of his will according to his purpose, which he set forth in Messiah as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth (Ephesians 1:9-10).*

***You** willingly live within me so **You** are with me always to help, comfort and to guide. For **God Himself** has said, "**I will never leave you or forsake you,**" so that with confidence we say, "**The Lord is my helper; I will not fear (Hebrews 13:5c-6b).**" How wonderful, **Father God**, that **You** are always ready to help me fight any battle and be victorious! What a comfort **Your** unfailing love for me is! In **Yeshua's** holy name and power*

of **His** resurrection. Amen

The three-fold attack on humanity through **the flesh, the eyes and the pride in our achievements and possessions** can be most easily seen in **Genesis 3:1-7**, one of the most foundational and pivotal passages in Scripture. There **Satan** utilized the same threefold temptation to attack his target. **Adam and Eve** succumbed in **Genesis 3:6**, plunging the human race into **sin**. **When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it had a pleasing appearance and that the tree was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her; and he ate. The Adversary** appealed to **Eve's** desire for food (**the desires of the old nature**), **her** desire to have something attractive (**the desires of the eyes**), and **her** desire to have **wisdom (the pride of life)**. **Adam** accepted the same enticements without protest and ate the fruit **his wife** gave **him**, and **the Lawless One's kingdom** gained its initial foothold on earth.

It is not surprising, then, to see that **the world**, under **the Tempter's** leadership, continues to assault sinners through those same three pathways of temptation. **The Ruler of Darkness** plays on the corruptibility of the fallen human heart to achieve the maximum impact for evil and chaos in **the world**. But we are not slaves to the diabolical, corrupt **world** system (**Romans 6:5-14; James 4:7; First Peter 5:8-9; First John 4:1-6**). Like our **Lord**, who has redeemed us, we possess the ability to successfully resist the temptations of this world (**Romans 8:1-13; James 4:7**).

3. Because of where the world is going: The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever (**First John 2:15-17**). The third reason we are **not** to **love the world** is because **it is passing away**. The principle of **the kingdom of sin and death** is the exact opposite of the principle of **the Kingdom of Life and Righteousness**. Therefore, the living dead in the world are destined for eternal **death** in hell, but believers are destined for eternal life in heaven (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ms - The Eternal Security of the Believer**). **The one who does the will of God**, who trusts and obeys Messiah, has nothing to fear concerning **the world's** process of self-destruction (**First Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9**). It is **God's** will that people believe the Gospel, repent of their **sin**, and embrace **Yeshua Messiah** as their personal **Lord and Savior** (**Mark 1:15; John 6:29; First Timothy 2:4-6**). By doing this they will demonstrate that they **love** what **ADONAI** loves and **hate** what **He** hates. They will clearly no longer be devoted to the unbelieving **world** system and will shun **its** continuous appeal to **sin**, which comes through **the desires of the old nature, the desires of the eyes, and pride in achievements and possessions.**²¹⁵

What is the future of disease or illness? In the present world . . . **death**. But in **ADONAI's** new creation, it will be done away with because of **Messiah's** victory over the grave. For the believer, this life of pollution and pain, of disease and **death**, will end with the glorification of the people of **God**. Because disease and **death** are incompatible with the glory of **YHVH**, nothing impure will enter **the heavenly City (Revelation 21:27)**. The same promise has not been given to the wicked **(Revelation 22:11)**.²¹⁶ There is no middle ground.