
Day 62 – March 3

The Laws of Moses (1450 – 1400 BCE)

Health and Dietary Laws

Leprosy

Discharges Isolation

Readings: Leviticus 13:1-59; 14:33-57; 15:1-12, 16-27, 31-33; Numbers 5:1-4; Deuteronomy 24:8-9

Reflections:

- This section shows a real concern for health and hygiene. Again we must remember the context of an ancient nomad community. Some of the laws represent symbolism (as with semen and menstruation) but most of them are simply health related. Within the laws of Israel, godliness is next to cleanliness.
- The reference to going white referred to freshly healed skin which looked white against tanned skin. So these laws weren't about becoming entirely covered in the disease but rather the skin finally being healed from it.
- Living outside of community would have been difficult, no doubt. We must remember there were no hospitals though. It is possible those who were sick all camped together. Anyways, we see how life would have been so different for an ancient group with no medicine.