

Leviticus 12

Verses 1-5

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: ‘When a woman gives birth and bears a male *child*, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean. ³ On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. ⁴ Then she shall remain in the blood of *her* purification for thirty-three days; she shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are completed. ⁵ But if she bears a female *child*, then she shall be unclean for two weeks, as in her menstruation; and she shall remain in the blood of *her* purification for sixty-six days.

When a woman gives birth to a male *child*

She shall be unclean for 7 days. She shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary for 33 days.

This was a total of 40 days.

But if she bears a female *child*

She shall be unclean for 14 days. She shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary for 66 days

This was a total of 80 days.

Verses 6-8

‘When the days of her purification are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. ⁷ Then he shall offer it before the Lord and make atonement for her, and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a *child*, *whether* a male or a female. ⁸ But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.’”

When the days of her purification are completed

This was after the 40 or 80 days.

Why were the days of purification doubled for a female child?

We are not told.

But it could be because women take twice as long to get ready. 😊 😊

For a son or for a daughter, she shall bring a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering

The same offering was brought for a son or daughter

This would suggest that God held male and female children to be equal

Why was there a sin offering?

See verse 7

She shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood

This was the flow of blood that takes place when the placenta separates from the womb.

But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering

God is always looking out for the poor.

He never wanted the poor to be left out because of their social standing.

Jesus was born into a family so poor that they could not even afford a lamb to redeem their firstborn.

See Luke 2:22-24