
BEREAN DIGEST

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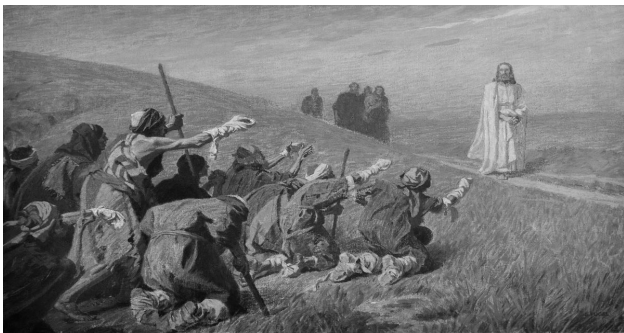
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The Coronavirus and the Bible



Introduction

While in the wilderness, Moses provides instructions on when someone (or something) should be quarantined. For example, those who had leprosy were instructed to be examined by a priest and to be “shut up” for seven days or even “live alone” for the duration of their lives (Lev 13:4, 46). This isolation from society was a means of preventing the spread of a contagious disease or to prevent others from becoming ritually unclean. Moses also gave instructions on the need for sanitary cleanliness by teaching them to wash their clothes and bathe themselves in water (Lev 13:46).

Quarantine Definition

1. (*n.*) An enforced isolation of a person or thing infected with a contagious disease--originally a period of forty days.
2. (*n.*) Specifically, the term, originally of forty days, during which a ship arriving in port, and suspected of being infected a malignant contagious disease, is

obliged to forbear all intercourse with the shore; hence, such restraint or inhibition of intercourse; also, the place where infected or prohibited vessels are stationed.

3. (*n.*) The period of forty days during which the widow had the privilege of remaining in the mansion house of which her husband died seized.

4. (*v. t.*) To compel to remain at a distance, or in a given place, without intercourse, when suspected of having contagious disease; to put under, or in, quarantine (Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary).

Leprosy

Leprosy is a generic term applied to a variety of skin disorders from psoriasis to true leprosy. Its symptoms ranged from white patches on the skin to running sores to loss of digits on the fingers and toes (Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

Disease Quarantine and the Bible

²“When **a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot**, and it turns into a **case of leprous disease on the skin** of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests, ³ and **the priest shall examine the diseased area on the skin of his body**. And if the hair in the diseased area has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a case of leprous disease. When the priest has examined him, he shall pronounce him unclean. ⁴ But if the spot is white in the skin of his body and appears no deeper than the skin, and the hair in it has not turned white, **the priest shall shut up the diseased person for seven days**. ⁵ And the

priest shall examine him on the seventh day, and if in his eyes the disease is checked and the disease has not spread in the skin, then **the priest shall shut him up for another seven days** (Lev 13:2–5).

³¹ And if the priest examines the itching disease and it appears no deeper than the skin and there is no black hair in it, then **the priest shall shut up the person with the itching disease for seven days**, ³² and on the seventh day the priest shall examine the disease. If the itch has not spread, and there is in it no yellow hair, and the itch appears to be no deeper than the skin, ³³ then he shall shave himself, but the itch he shall not shave; and **the priest shall shut up the person with the itching disease for another seven days** (Lev 13:31–33).

⁴⁵ “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and **he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’** ⁴⁶ **He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease.** He is unclean. **He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp** (Lev 13:45–46).

The chiefway the coronavirus is spread is through droplets that come from mouth through speaking, sneezing, or coughing.

² “This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing. **He shall be brought to the priest,** ³ **and the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall look.** Then, if the case of leprous disease is healed in the leprous person, the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop. (Lev 14:2–4).

And he who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes and shave off all his hair and bathe himself in water, and he shall be clean. And after that he may come into the camp, **but live outside his tent seven days** (Lev 14:8).

³⁴ “When you come into the land of Canaan, which I give you for a possession, and I put a case of leprous disease in a house in the land of your possession, ³⁵ then he who owns the house shall

come and tell the priest, ‘There seems to me to be some case of disease in my house.’ ³⁶ Then **the priest shall command that they empty the house before the priest goes to examine the disease**, lest all that is in the house be declared unclean. And afterward the priest shall go in to see the house. ³⁷ And he shall examine the disease. And if the disease is in the walls of the house with greenish or reddish spots, and if it appears to be deeper than the surface, ³⁸ then the priest shall go out of the house to the door of the house and **shut up the house seven days** (Lev 14:34–38).

² “Command the people of Israel that they **put out of the camp everyone who is leprous** or has a discharge and everyone who is unclean through contact with the dead. ³ You shall put out both male and female, **putting them outside the camp, that they may not defile their camp**, in the midst of which I dwell” (Num 5:2–3).

And the Lord touched the king, so that he was a leper to the day of his death, and **he lived in a separate house**. And Jotham the king's son was over the household, governing the people of the land (2 Kings 15:5).

[Azariah (Uzziah) became arrogant and performed a task that only priests were allowed to do (2 Chron 26:16 – 19) and lived a quarantined life for the duration of his life because his incurable skin disease).

³ Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, “Why are we sitting here until we die? (2 Kings 7:3)

²¹ And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and **being a leper lived in a separate house**, for **he was excluded from the house of the LORD**. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land (2 Chron 26:21).

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, **who stood at a distance** (Luke 17:12).

Pandemic [Pan (All) Demos (People)] – a disease that is prevalent over a whole country or the whole world. Sin is a pandemic – it has touched everyone that has ever been born (either directly or indirectly).